

Bangalore Mirror

ON SUNDAY

TEMP Max 26 | Min 21 | Humidity 71%

Light rain

Sensex 84,211 | Nifty 25,795 | Gold 1,23,255 | Silver 1,47,150 | Dollar 87.82 | Euro 102.10 | GBP 116.95



EVIL COERCE

Despite Karnataka's new ordinance curbing microfinance harassment, moneylenders still use twisted recovery tactics

PAGE 6



LOSING GRIP

Traditional wrestlers give it their all, but without government backing, once famous sport fading into oblivion

PAGE 7

With drug traffickers using postal and courier services to push in contraband concealed in packets of everyday use items, whom can we trust to sniff out all problematic matter? Why, the dog squad of course

MEET THE PAW PATROL

Just like Ramu and Prince, who were key in recent drug bust, other squad members prove indispensable too

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With a rise in drug trafficking through postal and courier services, the Bengaluru Police have intensified surveillance measures by deploying sniffer dog squads at postal sorting and logistics facilities across the city. Numerous cases revealed that drug peddlers are increasingly using the postal system to transport narcotics packed in everyday food items, often evading automated scanning mechanisms.

According to the City Police Commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh, drugs enter the city through multiple channels, one of which is postal services. In some countries, substances like hydro ganja are legal, allowing exporters to send them without committing a crime. However, once these packages reach Bengaluru, they fall under illegal possession and trafficking. To avoid detection, traffickers cleverly conceal narcotics inside everyday items such as food packets, chips packets, pet food, chocolate boxes, and cereal packets, making it extremely difficult for standard scanning systems to identify them. "Dog squads add an extra layer of security and are capable of detecting substances that machines often fail to pick up,"

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11 >>



“Earlier, there was a frisking mechanism in place, but it has now been replaced by automated sorting. The machines simply scan and forward the parcels. As a result, some packages pass through without proper inspection

—Police official

Brutality becomes child's play

Recent cases of heinous crimes involving juveniles point to rising numbers; police say repeat offenders are more violent



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As the number of minors involved in crime rises, city is also witnessing hand of juveniles in some heinous crimes ranging from gang rapes to dacoities to vehicle vandalism and armed robberies.

It has been confirmed that in a recent gang rape and dacoity case under the Madanayakanahalli police limits, two of the three accused are juveniles.

According to police, the incident occurred on Tuesday night at a private residence in Gangagondanahalli village, when the gang allegedly barged into the house between 9.15 pm and 12.30 am, threatening the occupants.

There were two women and two men with a minor inside the house. The assailants reportedly tied up the male members before dragging one of the women, a native of West Bengal, into another room and taking turns raping her. The gang also assaulted the other victims with cricket bats and fled with ₹25,000 in cash and two mobile phones.

The survivors managed to alert police shortly after midnight. Senior officers rushed to the spot, and the injured were shifted to a nearby hospital for treatment. Three accused, all residents of the same

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11 >>

THINGS TO DO

01 Dance Gala

Bengaluru's Kuchipudi Parampara Foundation presents its 12th Natya Parampara Utsav at Seva Sadan, featuring Kuchipudi and Kathak performances and honours for senior gurus. **Where:** Seva Sadan Auditorium, Malleshwaram; **When:** October 31, 6 pm onwards



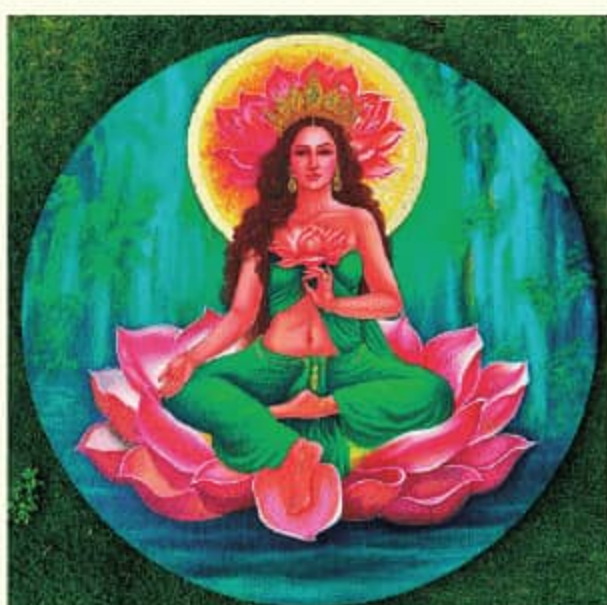
02 Cultural Joy

Celebrate Karnataka Rajyotsava with folk dances like Dollu Kunittha, Huli Vesha, Yakshagana, and soulful Carnatic music, honouring the state's rich heritage. **Where:** Bhartiya Mall of Bengaluru, Thanisandra Main Road; **When:** November 1, 5 pm onwards



04 Health & Sport

PHANA celebrates 25 years with the 'PHANA Cricket League' and a free Mega Health Camp, offering medical tests and consultations, alongside community sporting festivities. **Where:** Ambedkar Stadium, Rajajinagar
When: October 26, 7 am onwards



03 Art narratives

Nine artists come together for Masterstroke Figurative: Narratives of Representation, exploring realism, mythology, everyday life, and socio-cultural themes through diverse styles and media. The exhibition celebrates creativity, storytelling, and the pursuit of passion beyond formal training. **Where:** Karnataka Chitrakala Parishat, Kumara Kripa Road; **When:** October 30 to November 2, 10 am to 7:30 pm



05 Spooky fun

MAP presents a Halloween-themed "Make at MAP" session, inviting participants to create posters inspired by classic Bollywood horror films, turning their deepest fears into art. **Where:** MAP Bengaluru, HDFC Learning Centre; **When:** October 26, 11:30 am to 3:30 pm

Road project could wipe out 380 trees on campus

Citizens and environmentalists demand public consultation as 380 mature trees are slated for felling to make way for a road

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A public notice by the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) regarding the proposed felling of 380 trees on the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) campus in Yelahanka has drawn criticism from citizens and environmentalists across the city.

The notice, published on October 23, has invited objections, if any, from citizens before the removal of these trees of various species on the CRPF campus, which are obstructing a road project within the premises.

Road project triggers environmental concerns

The notice was issued after the CRPF submitted an application to the GBA for the removal of trees on the eastern and western sides of the campus for the construction of a peripheral road. Citizens have raised strong objections, citing the environmental implications of this large-scale tree felling. They argue that the proposed alignment of the project should be reconsidered, and alternatives explored to preserve these mature trees.

Environmentalists suggest that realigning the road or adopting an alternative layout could substantially reduce the loss of tree cover and maintain the ecological balance of the area. "We strongly protest this large-scale axing, particularly as it appears to be undertaken merely for a road project. Con-



sidering that the felling will significantly impact residents in and around Yelahanka, we request that the CRPF convene a public consultation session at the earliest," said a member of the Environment Impact Group, a collective of citizens and environmentalists.

"We have submitted objections to ensure the trees are protected, as this is a significant number to be felled for a road. This is a private road inside the campus and can be designed and aligned to ensure minimal tree felling. Any project should have the lowest environmental impact to mitigate the severe effects of climate change in the city. Urban forestry is crucial to prevent Bengaluru's climate from deteriorating further," said Vinod Jacob, a city-based environmentalist and urban strategist.

Some also highlight the lack of clarity regarding the types of trees proposed to be felled in the public notice by the GBA.

Environmentalists urge greater transparency

According to Dattatreya Devare, trustee of the Bangalore Environment Trust and a city-based environmentalist, the project proponent, in this case the CRPF, should consider holding a public consultation meeting. "Even though public consultation is not mandatory, the CRPF should consider holding such a meeting. Considering the severe loss of green cover that Bengaluru is facing, public consultations should be conducted routinely for every proposal requiring tree felling. Moreover, the public notice detailing the trees proposed for felling is not accessible to citizens, as the old BBMP website has undergone some changes. Given this constraint, the GBA should consider reposting the notice with details of the tree species. The notice should also include information on the nature of the peripheral road proposed by the CRPF," said Devare.

IAF training gets a modern makeover

The Indian Air Force (IAF) held the Training Command Commanders' Conference 2025 at Headquarters Training Command, Bengaluru, on October 23-24. Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, Chief of the Air Staff, presided over the two-day event, focusing on transforming training philosophy, modernising infrastructure, and aligning training with the IAF's future operational needs. During the conference, the CAS reviewed the performance of training establishments, emphasised operationally oriented training to enhance combat readiness, and praised their excellence while urging continuous improvement. The Air Force Academy was awarded the prestigious Pride of Training Command trophy by the CAS. — IANS

Man murders lover after fight

A 35-year-old woman, Salma, a single mother of four and domestic worker, was found dead inside an auto-rickshaw near D-Mart under Tilak Nagar police limits on Saturday evening. Preliminary investigations indicate she was brutally murdered. Police identified the accused as Subramani (30), a garment factory worker, and Senthil (25), a daily-wage labourer. Salma and Subramani reportedly had an illicit relationship. After an altercation on Friday night, Subramani allegedly struck her on the head, killing her. The body was wrapped and abandoned in the damaged auto. A murder case has been registered, CCTV verified, and efforts are ongoing to trace and apprehend the accused. — IANS

Adopt an animal and keep its name forever

The Karnataka Zoo Authority has revised its animal adoption policy, encouraging individuals and organisations to adopt animals with several incentives. The 159th Board Meeting of the Karnataka Zoo Authority approved the updated adoption policy. Under the new policy, animals can now be adopted and named for five years instead of the previous one-year limit, without any additional 25% naming fee. The chosen name, according to policy guidelines, will remain with the animal for its lifetime. Adopters will receive a certificate of adoption, and



50% of the adoption fee will be eligible for tax exemption. Additionally, adopters will receive five free entry passes per year for zoos, safaris, and butterfly parks for up to five years. Interested individuals can select their preferred animal and submit the proposed name to the Naming Committee at Bannerghatta Biological Park for approval. — BMB

17-year study shows no drop in male fertility levels

A 17-year study conducted by Manipal Kasturba Medical College (KMC), under Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), has found that sperm quality among South Indian men has remained stable, countering global perceptions of a decline. Published in the American Journal of Men's Health, the study analysed samples from 12,000 men who underwent fertility testing at KMC between



2006 and 2022, assessing sperm count, motility, viability, and morphology. According to Prof Satish Adiga, who guided the research, while infertility issues have increased, the quality of sperm itself has not shown alarming deterioration. The study, conducted with Dr Shubhashree, Dr Dakshanya, and Dr Maitreyi, is expected to address misconceptions and fears regarding male fertility in India. Experts

note that the longitudinal data provide valuable insights into male reproductive health and have global significance, offering a reliable reference point for fertility trends. — BMB

Third round KEA results live

The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has announced the provisional results for the third round of seat allocation for medical and dental courses for the 2025 academic year. The results were published on Friday on the official KEA website — <https://cetonline.karnataka.gov.in>. Candidates who wish to raise objections to the provisional results may do so in person at the KEA office in Malleshwaram by 10 am on October 25, or by sending an email to keauthority@nic.in.

Students who have already secured seats under the All India Quota in the third round, and have also been allotted

seats in KEA's third round, must confirm their willingness to retain the KEA seat by reporting in person to the KEA office by 12:30 pm on October 25, or by sending an email from their registered email ID to keauthority@nic.in.

Failure to do so will result in their exclusion from the final allotment, and their deposited medical course fee will not be refunded, clarified KEA Executive Director H. Prasanna. The final seat allotment results for the third round will be released after 12 noon on October 27. Candidates who secure a seat must pay the remaining fees by October 30, download the seat confirmation letter, and report to their respective colleges with all original documents to complete the admission process, the KEA stated. — BMB

City tops nation in online investment scams

Rising online investment and marital scams in B'luru highlight vulnerabilities of professionals, with crores lost through apps, social media, and extramarital relationship platforms

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Bengaluru is known for many sobriquets—Silicon Valley of India, Garden City, and the Startup Capital—but a less flattering title is emerging: India's cyber investment fraud capital. Over the past six months, the city has accounted for a disproportionate share of online investment scams, reflecting how digital adoption, high disposable incomes, and professional ambition make residents vulnerable to cybercriminals.

City tops in scams

Data from the Ministry of Home Affairs shows that Bengaluru alone accounts for 26.83% of all online investment fraud cases in India, with Hyderabad and Delhi-NCR also heavily

Data from the Ministry of Home Affairs shows that Bengaluru alone accounts for 26.83% of all online investment fraud cases in India, with Hyderabad and Delhi-NCR also heavily affected



ily affected. Nationwide, over 30,000 people lost a total of 1,500 crore to such scams, with most victims aged 30–60. The average financial loss per victim is approximately 51.38 lakh, highlighting the scale of the problem.

Apps fuel frauds

Fraudsters predominantly use messaging apps and social media platforms to lure victims. About 20% of scams involve Telegram and WhatsApp, whereas LinkedIn and X (Twitter)

account for under 1% of cases. Around 41.87% of victims were ensnared through other lesser-known apps, showing the adaptability of cybercriminals in exploiting digital avenues difficult to trace.

Marital scams rising

Bengaluru is also witnessing a rise in marital scams linked to online dating and extramarital relationships. According to data from the app Gleeden, 17% of users are from Bengaluru, primarily professionals aged 30–45. Experts believe that emotional dissatisfaction and lack of companionship are driving adults to such platforms, contributing to both marital discord and susceptibility to cyber fraud.

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Child murdered over domestic dispute

A seven-year-old girl was allegedly murdered by her stepfather at Kannika Barangay under Kumbalagodu police limits on Thursday evening. The accused, Darshan, who works in retail marketing in Anekal, reportedly killed his stepdaughter, Siri, after a quarrel with his wife, Shilpa. Police said the incident occurred between 5 pm and 5.50 pm. Shilpa, employed in a private company, returned

home to find Darshan waiting outside. He allegedly pulled her inside, locked the door, and sped away on his bike as she screamed for help. Shilpa found her daughter unconscious with injuries on her face, reportedly smothered to death. Police have registered a murder case, launched a manhunt for Darshan, and sent the body for postmortem. Investigation is ongoing.

—BMB

Precision, Passion and a Pair of Robotic Hands: Inside South India's Only Dual-Certified GI Surgery Hub

Every once in a while, we come across a story in medicine that's less about awards and more about people, dedication, the skill, the quiet moments that define excellence. This month, one such story unfolded at Kauvery Hospital, Electronic City, Bangalore, a leading surgical gastroenterology hospital in Bangalore, which became the first corporate in South India to be named as Centre of Excellence in Hernia and Abdominal wall reconstruction surgery by the Asia Pacific Hernia Society (APHS).

But the heart of this achievement lies not in the plaque or certificate, but in the pair of hands that have earned a quiet, reverent nickname among India's surgical elite: "The Robot Man."

The Making of the "Robot Man": The name wasn't a marketing gimmick; it came during a live operative workshop, when one of the senior surgeons watched Dr. Ganesh Shenoy perform a laparoscopic hernia repair with an almost mechanical rhythm, and began referring to him as "The Robot Man". The term stuck - not because it implied cold efficiency, but because his hands moved with the kind of precision, repeatability, and calm that robotic systems are built to emulate.

But what sets Dr. Shenoy apart isn't just his ability. As a renowned surgical gastroenterologist in Bangalore, he has performed over 100+ robotic-assisted GI Surgeries at Kauvery Hospital, Electronic City, in the past three months, a rare feat matched by only a few surgeons in the country.

This isn't about speed; it's about mastery of systems, surgical judgment, and patient trust that takes decades to cultivate.

From Technical Brilliance to Institutional Recognition: The APHS accreditation follows closely on an earlier recognition by the Hernia Society of India (HSI) in 2024. Which is named Kauvery Hospitals, Electronic City, a Centre of Excellence in Hernia Surgery. But this is not just symbolic. Achieving dual certification requires rigorous evaluation of clinical protocols, surgical outcomes, academic, and research contributions, all of which Kauvery met with unmatched rigor under Dr. Shenoy's leadership.

The award was officially received on September 19th, 2025, at the APHS annual congress in New Delhi, by Dr. S. Vijayabaskaran, Executive Director of



Kauvery Hospitals (Bangalore & Hosur), and Dr. Ganesh Shenoy, Director - Department of Surgical Gastroenterology, Minimal Access, General, Bariatric surgery and

Robotic Surgery himself.

"This recognition by APHS reflects our consistent investment in high-quality patient care, surgical innovation, and world-class training. Dr. Shenoy's contribution to elevating GI surgery in India is monumental - not just for Kauvery, but for the profession as a whole," said Dr. Vijayabaskaran.

The Case for Excellence- Beyond the Operating Table: What truly sets Kauvery Hospital, Electronic City apart is its vision for care. Recognised as one of the 3. best hospitals for surgical gastroenterology in Bangalore, Dr. Shenoy has transformed the hospital into a hub for surgical education & innovation. In the past five years, he has conducted 15+ national training programs, delivered 75 live operative demonstrations at global conferences, and authored 35+ peer-reviewed publications that have advanced surgical science. His pioneering lateral 3-port technique for extended extraperitoneal hernia repairs is now cited internationally, while his expertise in complex hernias, redo surgeries, and rare cases like incarcerated urinary bladder hernias in females is pushing surgical boundaries in India.

As a mentor, he has trained 2,500+ surgeons across specialties, multiplying his impact on patient care nationwide. With over 1,000 complex hernia surgeries performed using laparoscopic and robotic approaches and the Best Researcher Award 2023 (IAGES) to his name, Dr. Shenoy embodies surgical excellence that has made Kauvery a true Centre of Excellence.

As the current Vice President - South Zone of the Hernia Society of India, and faculty with both IAGES and APHS, Dr. Shenoy is increasingly shaping how hernia surgery is taught, standardized, and delivered across the region.



Dr. S. Vijayabaskaran
Executive Director
of Kauvery Hospitals
(Bangalore & Hosur)



Dr. Ganesh Shenoy, K
Director - Department of Surgical Gastroenterology

What This Means for Patients: For the thousands of patients diagnosed with hernias or any GI disorders, this recognition signals hope & reliable care. Patients with recurrent hernias, high-risk abdominal wall reconstructions, or those told elsewhere that "surgery isn't possible now the team is capable of delivering precision-driven solutions, and for those seeking Robotic GI surgeries, Dr. Shenoy's team offers precision-driven care without the waitlist bottlenecks seen in other corporate hospitals.

At Kauvery Hospital, Electronic City is now a destination where complex surgeries meet predictable outcomes.

A Model for Institutional Aspiration: In India's rapidly evolving healthcare ecosystem, private hospitals often struggle to balance tertiary care with training and research. Kauvery Hospitals, Electronic City, breaks this stereotype.

With dedicated DNB programs, a robust surgical fellowship pipeline, and strong partnerships with international surgical societies, Kauvery is creating a self-sustaining academic and clinical ecosystem - one that not only performs at the highest level, but educates and replicates that excellence across institutions.

In a time where healthcare headlines are often dominated by infrastructure or insurance coverage, Kauvery's dual recognitions quietly underscore a different, more critical benchmark: clinical depth. **Final Thoughts:** For a surgeon who has spent his life pushing the boundaries of what's possible in gastrointestinal and hernia surgery, being called "The Robot Man" might seem like a casual compliment. But in a field where millimeter errors can alter lives, that kind of precision is rare, revered, and now institutionally recognised.

And for a hospital that has grown from strength to strength across Southern India, this dual recognition from HSI and APHS may well mark the beginning of its rise as one of Asia's leading centres for surgical excellence, innovation and education.

Kauvery Hospital - Electronic City

Hewlett Packard Avenue, Konappana Agrahara, Electronic City, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560100

For inquiries or appointments:

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B-SMILE ramp plan sparks Malleswaram traffic fears

Revised tunnel ramp under Sankey Road faces criticism, activists highlight risk to trees, water aquifers, and local traffic conditions

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Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited's (B-SMILE) recent modification in the alignment of the proposed Twin Tunnel Road (TTR) project has once again left citizens worried.

Concerned residents argue that the new exit ramp proposed at 18th Cross in Malleswaram will increase traffic congestion, contrary to its intended purpose of decongesting the route. They point out that the junction already receives traffic from the city's west—Malleshwaram and Yeshwanthpur—as well as from Majestic and Sadashivnagar.

Given this scenario, the ramp would unleash an influx of vehicles directly into one of the city's most sensitive heritage areas.

Notably, B-SMILE has recently dropped three entry and exit ramps earlier proposed at Mekhri Circle in favour of a new entry ramp that will pass underneath Sankey Road before emerging at 18th Cross. Earlier plans had proposed four ramps each at Vidhana Soudha, Mekhri Circle, and Hebbal, along with two ramps each at St John's Hospital and Lalbagh.

The 16.75-kilometre-long tunnel road, running from Hebbal to Silk Board, has faced strong backlash from environmentalists and

hydrologists due to its potential to disrupt groundwater flow and other environmental impacts.

Citizens now fear that the revised plan will cause traffic chaos and erode the natural and cultural identity of Malleswaram.

An online petition by Jhatkaa.org highlights that the 2.45-kilometre underground stretch beneath Sankey Road could impact the ecosystem around Sankey Lake and increase flood risk in neighbouring areas. Critics warn that water aquifers around the lake may be adversely affected, leading to unusual drying or flooding. They also fear that the underground tunnel will damage trees in the area.

Civic activists and environmentalists argue that the project may pose risks to Sankey Tank, following previous threats to Hebbal, Naga-

An online petition by Jhatkaa.org highlights that the 2.45-kilometre underground stretch beneath Sankey Road could impact the ecosystem around Sankey Lake and increase flood risk in neighbouring areas

wara, and Lalbagh lakes. They warn of serious ecological, hydrological, and geological consequences.

"Proposed alignment suggests the ramp will go below or adjacent to Stella Maris School, TTD Kalyana Mantapa, and under the iconic Chowdaiah Hall. Hundreds of cars will exit from this ramp, and the junction of Sankey Road



and 18th Cross in Malleswaram will face gridlock. Vehicles will either proceed towards IISc, turn left to Malleshwaram, or make a U-turn at the junction, causing traffic chaos.

detailed study, as claimed, it seems no in-depth study was carried out for this new ramp. Those affected were not consulted," added Dugar.

B-SMILE maintains that all necessary measures have been taken to minimise environmental damage while ensuring project delivery.

"We understand the concerns raised by citizens and experts. All necessary measures regarding environmental and traffic aspects have been considered. Various options were studied before shifting the ramp. The area's topography has been carefully examined, and citizens should not panic. After Bellary Road, it will be a cut-and-cover system rather than a tunnel," said Dr BS Prahalad, Technical Director at B-SMILE.

1,700 encroachments block city drains, flood woes deepen

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Despite repeated government assurances and court directives, Bengaluru continues to grapple with widespread encroachments on its rajakaluves (major stormwater drains). Official data tabled in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly reveals that 1,711 encroachments remain uncleared, posing a serious threat to the city's flood management efforts. According to figures presented by Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar in the Legislative Assembly, a total of 4,106 encroachments have been identified along the city's stormwater drains. Of these, 2,395 have been removed, while 1,325 cases are still under survey. Another 198 cases are pending in court, and 188 encroachments are in the process of being cleared.

Court cases and delays

The government says it has issued orders to ensure the removal of all

encroachments within a fixed time frame. As per Order No. Na.E 250 MN Y 2018 Part (3), dated 28-08-2023, responsibilities have been assigned to specific officers to execute and monitor clearance operations. However, pending litigation and prolonged surveys continue to delay the process, leaving critical stretches of drains blocked, he said.

Big plans, slow clearance

Even as the encroachment issue drags on, the government has lined up major investments to improve the stormwater drain network. In 2025-26, under World Bank grant assistance, tenders worth ₹2,000 crore are being processed for constructing retaining walls along 173 km of primary and secondary drains and redesigning culverts and bridges. Additionally, under the National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF), another ₹172.25 crore has been earmarked for culvert and bridge redesign work. Officials say these projects aim to enhance flood resilience



in the city.

Maintenance and desilting works

For routine upkeep, in 2022-23, the BBMP divided the city into 30 packages for the annual maintenance of major stormwater drains. Work cov-

ering 581 km was awarded at a cost of ₹115.77 crore, of which ₹95 crore has already been paid to contractors. DKS said that contractors are required to clean the drains four times a year to ensure smooth rainwater flow. Supervision responsibilities have been assigned to field officers, with divisional heads overseeing the quality and frequency of desilting operations.

Flood risks persist

Experts warn that without urgent action to remove remaining encroachments, even costly infrastructure upgrades will not prevent flooding during heavy rains. The data underscores the urgency for the city administration to match its big-ticket projects with equally aggressive enforcement against illegal structures obstructing the stormwater drain network.

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Pothole Peril

Hulimangala



Hulimangala Main Road near a sweet shop in Electronic City is riddled with deep potholes, turning the stretch into a virtual pool.

Trash trouble

2nd Stage BTM



Behind a mall in 2nd Stage BTM, garbage keeps piling up unchecked, with GBA authorities yet to clear it properly.

Construction chaos

HSR Layout



In HSR Layout 7th Sector, illegal construction and debris dumping continue on 13th Main and 21st Cross, despite repeated complaints to GBA.

CRIME FILES

Instagram Romeo cons woman, vanishes with ₹8 Lakh

Bengaluru police have registered a case at the Annapurneshwari Police Station after a young woman was allegedly defrauded of ₹8 lakh by a man who posed as both a boyfriend and a friend on Instagram. The complaint was lodged by a private bank employee, prompting the police to launch a search for the accused, identified as Ritesh alias Vijay.

Modus operandi

Around eight months ago, the victim came into contact with the accused on Instagram, initially under the name Vijay. Their regular conversations gradually evolved into a romantic relationship. At the same time, the accused created another account under the name



Ritesh to befriend the victim, sharing fabricated personal hardships to

evoke sympathy. Using these dual identities, he manipulated the victim into transferring money, ultimately defrauding her of ₹8 lakh. The victim reportedly never met the accused in person. The deception came to light when she initiated a video call and discovered the dual identities, prompting her to file a formal complaint with the police.

Investigation underway

Police officials are actively investigating the case, tracing both accounts and related communications to apprehend the accused. Authorities have also urged social media users to remain vigilant, particularly when engaging in online friendships and romantic interactions.

-BMB

Guard turns smuggler in prison phone racket

The mystery of how prisoners were obtaining mobile phones inside prisons has come to light following the arrest of a warden at Parappana Agrahara Central Jail, who was caught attempting to smuggle a smartphone for ₹20,000. The incident has once again raised questions about staff complicity in illegal activities within the jail. The accused, Warden Amar Pranje (29), was arrested by the Parappana Agrahara police.

Pranje, who had been serving as a jail warden since 2019, was intercepted at the prison entrance around 12:40 pm on October 23, during a routine check. When he refused inspection and tried to leave, officers grew suspicious. A search revealed he was carrying a smartphone and earphones hidden under his clothes. The matter was immediately reported to senior jail officials, who handed him over to the police along with

the seized mobile phone.

According to Jail Superintendent HA Paramesh, a case has been registered under the Prisons Act, and Pranje has been remanded in judicial custody. During questioning, the accused admitted that a murder convict had allegedly paid ₹20,000 to have a mobile phone smuggled into the jail, and he had received ₹10,000 in advance to deliver the device inside. Police confirmed that the prisoner who provided the money has been taken into custody for further investigation.

Sources said the case has exposed how prisoners at Parappana Agrahara were making extortion calls and coordinating illegal activities using smuggled mobile phones, highlighting the need for stricter monitoring and greater staff accountability within correctional facilities.

-BMB



Sri Seetharaghava Souharda Sahakara Bank Niyamitha

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PUBLIC TENDER CUM AUCTION SALE NOTICE (3rd Time)

Tenders by way of submission of offers or invited from Public in general for purchase of below mentioned immovable property on "AS IS WHERE IS" and "AS IS WHAT IS" condition under the securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Act, 2002, for realization of outstanding dues from the borrower mentioned here below.

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1. K P Shivalingappa S/o Lt Parvathappa. 2. Keshavamurthy C S/o Channabasappa. 3. Ganesh K S S/o K P Shivalingappa. 4. Anusuya K R W/o Suresh K S

Outstanding Amount : Rs. 63,29,531.00 (Sixty Three Lakh Twenty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Thirty One Only) as on 18.10.2025 along with interest and other charges from 19.10.2025 and incidental expenses there on till the date of realization of the dues.

Description of the Property : All that pieces and parcel of immovable property bearing Southern Partition of Site No 6 Khata No 2084 / 1022 / 6 E Khata Property No 150200100600400708 and 2084 / 1022 / 6, in the layout known and called as "Greenidhi Sacred Springs", formed in converted Land in Survey No 129 (Conversion Order Bearing No BDS.ALN (A) SR 60/04-05, dated 07.02.2005. ALN (A) (K&A) SR 9/06-07, Dated 20.07.2006 BDS ALN (A) SR 598 / 04 – 05 Dated 29.03.2005 BDS ALN (A) SR 381 / 2004-05 Dated 12.01.2005 passed by the Deputy Commissioner Bangalore District and Layout has been approved from the Anekal planning Authority Wide approval No APA / LAO / 41 / 06-07 dated 16.02.2013 situated at Lakshisagara Village Attibele Hobli Anekal Tq Bangalore Urban District in all measuring 1280 Sq Feet out of 2226 Sq feet and bounded as follows East By Road, West by Site bearing No 18 and 19 North by Northern portion of Site No 6, South by Land bearing Survey No 119

Date of Demand Notice: 06.05.2023	Date of possession Notice: 08.05.2025
Reserve Price : Rs 40,00,000.00 EMD Amount : Rs 2,00,000.00 Minimum Raisable Bid Amount : Rs 1,00,000.00	Date of Auction – 12th Nov 2025

Place of Auction : Sri Seetharaghava Souharda Sahakara Bank Niyamitha, Sai Krupa, No 27, Dr. Rajkumar Road, 6th Block, Rajajinagar, next to St Ann's High School, BENGALURU - 560010

Last date for Submission of Tender: 12.11.2025 before: 12.00 pm

Date of Opening of Tender: 12.11.2025 afternoon 1.00 pm

For more details, Terms and Conditions Apply, Please Contact : Authorized Officer / General Manager, Sri Seetharaghava Souharda Sahakara Bank Niyamitha, Hosadurga. Ph No 7022276829, 7022276825.

Sd/-

Date: 24.10.2025
Place: Hosadurga

Authorized Officer / General Manager,
Sri Seetharaghava Souharda Sahakara Bank Niyamitha, Hosadurga.

Don't summon women for inquiry after 6 pm: DGP's order

Director General of Police (DGP) Dr MA Saleem has issued a stern directive to all police personnel across Karnataka, emphasising that women must not be summoned for inquiry after 6 pm and, if required to stay overnight, should be housed only in state rehabilitation centres, not police stations. Stressing the importance of discipline, transparency, and respectful conduct, the DGP stated that courteous behaviour would go a long way in strengthening public trust in the police force. Dr Saleem outlined 18 key guidelines that all officers must adhere to — urging them to treat every citizen equally,

regardless of social or economic background, and to handle complaints patiently and fairly. He cautioned police personnel against using harsh language, accepting illegal gratifications, or behaving in a manner that could humiliate women, senior citizens, or children. The DGP also directed officers to maintain transparency during investigations and to wear body-worn cameras while on duty for accountability. The instructions, he said, are aimed at ensuring that the Karnataka Police functions with professionalism, dignity, and a deep sense of responsibility towards the public.

-BMB

B-Khata properties to get A-Khata status

The Karnataka government has instructed officials to issue A-Khata property records for B-Khata properties on the outskirts of Bengaluru, covering panchayats, town panchayats, and municipal limits, as part of preparations for the future integration of these areas into the city. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said authorities have been directed to standardise tax collection based on property values, similar to the model in the core city, and to curb illegal constructions and slum developments.

He emphasised the need for the digitisation of all property records, raising civic awareness, enforcing proper waste management, and implementing urban planning guidelines across the soon-to-be-incorporated areas. Officials were also tasked with surveying the outskirts for inclusion in the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), preparing master plans, and coordinating with local representatives to address future challenges as these areas become part of the expanding metropolis.

-BMB

Unlicensed lenders go for the scalp despite full repayment

Police probe four moneylenders, who continue to use illegal operations and coercive recovery tactics despite Karnataka's new ordinance curbing microfinance harassment

Sanjana CS
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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Despite Karnataka's new ordinance mandating registration of microfinance institutions and penalising coercive recovery methods, reports of harassment by unregistered lenders continue to surface. A complaint has been filed with the Central Crime Branch (CCB) against four individuals, including a medical shop owner, for allegedly running unlicensed moneylending operations and harassing a woman borrower despite her full repayment.

The action follows an order issued by the Commissioner of Police based on a complaint filed by Manasa Krishnappa, Deputy Secretary, Cooperation Department, on behalf of the aggrieved woman, Anita Kom Prabhu (30), a resident of Prakasagara, Bengaluru.

According to the complaint, Anita, who ran a small business, had borrowed money from several local lenders — Anil, owner of Triveni Medicals; Durga Devi; Sumati; and Lalitha over the past few years to sustain her business. She alleged that although she had repaid both the principal and interest in full, the lenders continued to harass her for additional payments.

The FIR states that Anita had taken ₹35 lakh from Anil between 2018 and 2021 — ₹25 lakh at 5% interest and ₹10 lakh at 7% inter-



PIC FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

Despite repaying over ₹1.6 crore in cash and transfers, the woman faced daily calls, threats, and emotional distress

Bengaluru woman's ordeal exposes rampant unlicensed moneylending despite strict new laws. Four lenders face CCB action for charging exorbitant interest, seizing cheques, and threatening the borrower even after repayment

est. Despite full repayment, he allegedly refused to return 20 signed cheques held as security and began harassing her for original documents.

In April 2023, to clear dues and reinvest in her business, Anita borrowed ₹1.4 crore from Durga Devi at a monthly interest rate of 5%. The amount was transferred in instalments through her father-in-law's account, with four cheques and two signed agreements taken

as security. Later, she borrowed ₹23 lakh from Sumati, a moneylender near Triveni Medicals, at interest rates between 12% and 20%. Anita claims to have repaid ₹43 lakh in total ₹28 lakh through online transfers and ₹15 lakh in cash yet Sumati allegedly continued to demand more money.

The victim further stated that she had taken ₹85 lakh from Lalitha, wife of Lokesh, a cupboard maker, at 7% monthly interest.

Despite repaying ₹1.6 crore (₹1.2 crore online and ₹40 lakh in cash), Lalitha reportedly refused to return her cheques and bond, instead demanding repayment of the principal again.

Anita said the lenders repeatedly threatened her and her family, visiting her house, abusing her, and threatening to defame her by distributing photos and posters. In April 2025, Sumati and her son Manjunath allegedly barged into her home, issued death threats, and warned her to pay pending interest within 15 days.

"The lenders are calling me 50-60 times a day, scolding me, and demanding that I pay interest," the victim said in her statement. She added that under the guise of helping her, the accused charged exorbitant interest rates weekly, fortnightly, or monthly sometimes as high as 30% per month. They also allegedly made her sign agreements and hand over bank cheques to exploit her financial vulnerability.

According to Sahakara Sindhu officials in the Cooperation Department, a preliminary inquiry revealed that all four accused were operating without license and charging interest far above the legal limit prescribed under the Karnataka Money Lenders Act, 1961. Based on these findings, the Commissioner of Police directed the CCB to register a case against Anil, Durga Devi, Sumati, and Lalitha for illegal money lending, criminal intimidation, and harassment. The case is under investigation.

BMTC EV fleet stalls amid strike

BMTC's electric bus services have been hit hard by a strike launched by drivers employed through private agencies. For two consecutive days, these drivers have stayed off duty, demanding higher wages, bonuses, and allowances. As a result, over 140 electric buses have remained idle at multiple depots, causing severe disruptions in citywide operations and commuter inconvenience.

Under the Gross Cost Contract (GCC) model, private firms are responsible for supplying, operating, and maintaining these electric buses, including hiring drivers. However, this model has repeatedly caused delays and inefficiencies. Officials say recurring strikes, maintenance issues, and coordination lapses have impacted both BMTC's service reliability and financial performance.

Following discussions with BMTC officials, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy has decided to write to the Union Transport Ministry. His letter will detail the operational losses and inefficiencies arising from the GCC framework, urging the Centre to reconsider or revise the model. It will also recommend alternative mechanisms to ensure uninterrupted services. —BMB

Unseasonal rains ravage farmlands

Continuous rains over the past week have devastated agriculture and horticulture across Karnataka, damaging more than 10 lakh hectares of farmland. The unrelenting downpours have destroyed key food crops such as rice, ragi, pulses, wheat, maize, cucumbers, brinjal, and tomatoes, along with cash crops like bananas, coconuts, and black pepper. Unseasonal rainfall has severely disrupted sowing activities, with progress reaching only 25% in several regions. Vegetable and flower prices have surged sharply following widespread crop losses. In the coastal and Malnad belts, a combination of monsoon remnants and a low-pressure system over the Arabian Sea has triggered continuous rain, intensifying the damage.

Banana plantations, already weakened by earlier rains, have been hit by fungal infections, worsening farmers' distress. To ease the crisis, the state government has sanctioned 2,000 crore in relief, covering 5.29 lakh hectares across nine districts. —BMB

BMTC e-bus rams woman near stop

A 50-year-old woman, identified as Mala, died after being hit by a BMTC electric bus near a bus stop in Vijayanagar on Saturday evening. The accident occurred around 5.45 pm when she was crossing the road. The BMTC bus (registration number KA51 AK 7057), operating on the Yeshwantpur-Vijayanagar route, reportedly struck her while approaching the stop. She suffered severe head injuries and died on the spot. Vijayanagar Traffic Police arrived soon after being alerted and shifted the body to a nearby government hospital for postmortem. The bus has been seized, and the driver detained for questioning. A case has been registered, and further investigation is underway to determine the exact cause of the fatal mishap. —BMB

SIT tightens noose around activists in Dharmasthala burial probe

Summons issued to three key activists as investigators near conclusion of probe into alleged secret burials and perjury claims

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the alleged multiple burials at the Dharmasthala temple in Karnataka has issued summons to three activists Mahesh Shetty Thimarody, T Jayanth, and Girish Mattannavar directing them to appear before investigators on Monday. Police sources said failure to comply will lead to arrest warrants, as the probe enters its final phase, focusing on potential perjury and evidence tampering.

According to senior SIT officials, the investigation is now at a decisive stage. The case originated in August 2025 after Chinnaiah, a former sanitation worker at the temple from 1995 to 2014, filed a sensational complaint alleging the secret burial of over 200 unidentified bodies within the temple premises between 2002 and 2014. He claimed the remains included victims of accidents, murders, and suspicious deaths, buried without

As the Dharmasthala burial case reaches its final phase, SIT summons three activists linked to the Sowjanya campaign amid mounting evidence of fabricated proof and alleged conspiracy to defame temple authorities

autopsies or police documentation to hide irregularities.

Chinnaiah's presentation of a human skull as evidence triggered outrage among devotees and prompted the state government to constitute an SIT headed by IPS officer Pronab Mohanty. However, investigations revealed Chinnaiah's close ties with three activists associated with the long-running "Justice for Sowjanya" campaign — a movement seeking justice in the 2012 rape and murder of a Udupi teenager.

Thimarody, a key figure in that campaign, had sheltered Chinnaiah at his Ujire residence shortly before the complaint was filed. An SIT search there on August 26 led to the

seizure of 44 items, including laptops with 25 video recordings of Chinnaiah's media interactions and phones containing 21 more. Thimarody, externed from Raichur in September for unrelated offences, faces scrutiny for allegedly amplifying the claims.

Jayanth, a Bengaluru-based activist, hosted Chinnaiah for three days post-arrest and escorted him to Delhi with the skull, alongside Mattannavar and perjury-accused Sujatha Bhatt. Mattannavar, a former sub-inspector, is accused of orchestrating the operation. Forensic tests later revealed the skull originated from a medical research centre, discrediting the evidence and fuelling perjury charges. —PTI

HAL's HTT-40 trainer takes off

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) on Friday announced the successful maiden flight of its first Hindustan Turbo Trainer-40 (HTT-40) series production aircraft, designated TH 4001, at its Bengaluru facility. This marks a significant step toward strengthening the Indian Air Force's basic pilot training capability.

According to HAL's post on its official X handle, the HTT-40 is a fully aerobatic, tandem-seat turboprop aircraft designed for basic flight instruction, aerobatics, instrument, and night flying. The aircraft features an air-conditioned cockpit, modern avionics, hot refuelling capability, quick pilot changeover, and zero-zero ejection seats to ensure enhanced safety and operational efficiency.

Built around a proven Honeywell TPE331-12B turboprop engine, the HTT-40 promises excellent low-speed handling for improved training performance. It is equipped with a Glass Cockpit and indigenously developed avionics and more. —ANI



Losing grapple

Karnataka watches as its once famed art of traditional wrestling slowly fades into obscurity

| Sridhar.Vivan
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Once the pride of royal courts and the pulse of Bengaluru's 'Gardi Mane', traditional wrestling—or kushti—is slowly slipping into obscurity across Karnataka. The sport, considered a mark of strength, discipline, and masculinity in the past, is today struggling to find even a single government-appointed coach across seven districts of the Mysuru division. With no training centres, no modern facilities, and dwindling local support, Karnataka's wrestling culture is fighting its toughest bout yet—for survival.

For generations, Mysuru was known as the birthplace of wrestling. The city was dotted with over a thousand 'garadi mane' (traditional wrestling schools) where young men trained before dawn, coated in earth and sweat. Locals once treated these wrestlers like their own sons, offering them food, shelter, and support. Today, only a handful of these centres remain active. Even so, the passion hasn't fully died—over 2,500 wrestlers from Mysuru alone turn up when a state-level tournament is announced, and more than 6,000 wrestlers from across the division—covering Mysuru, Mandya, Chamarajanagar, Hassan, Mangaluru, and Udupi—still show up for major competitions.

Yet, this enthusiasm finds no official backing. Despite the rich legacy, not

one of these seven districts has a full-time wrestling coach or training academy under the Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports. The department has divided Karnataka into five zones — Bengaluru Urban and Rural, Mysuru, Belagavi, and Kalaburagi — for administrative purposes. Ironically, Belagavi alone boasts five wrestling training centres, while Mysuru, a land of royal wrestling heritage, has none.

"Scientific wrestling training is absent in Mysuru today. Young wrestlers are forced to train in outdated conditions without proper coaching or diet support," lamented a national-level wrestler. "If we want to save this art, we need modern training facilities, physiotherapists, and a dedicated academy."

Fitness studios take over

The sentiment resonates across Karnataka's wrestling circles. Bengaluru, which once had buzzing 'Garadi Mane' in areas like Cottonpet and Chamarajpet, now sees more fitness studios than wrestling pits. The few remaining enthusiasts in both Mysuru and Bengaluru are fighting to keep the soil-sport alive through small community-led initiatives.

Sports officials admit the delay. "The government approved the setting up of a Wrestling Academy in Mysuru in the last budget," said an official from the Department of Sports. "We will soon appoint a full-time coach and start training. It's high time the legacy is revived."



Scientific wrestling training is absent in Mysuru today. Young wrestlers are forced to train in outdated conditions without proper coaching or diet support. If we want to save this art, we need modern training facilities, physiotherapists, and a dedicated academy

—National-level wrestler



Scenes from a wrestling competition held in Mysuru this Dasara

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, himself known for his love of wrestling, has been urged by sportspersons and fans to take personal interest in reviving the sport. "If the government doesn't act soon, Mysuru—the land that produced champions—might lose its wrestling identity forever," said a veteran coach from Chamarajpet.

As modern sports dominate urban attention and children turn from garadis to gadgets, Karnataka's ancient sport finds itself at a crossroads—between memory and extinction. The question now is: will the state step in to ensure that the next generation still knows what it means to wrestle with the earth?

Biomass fuel is eating into women's lungs in city

| Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Wood, cow dung, and crop residue continue to be in use as household fuel in the IT capital of the country. And the persistent use of conventional biomass fuel, over cleaner alternatives such as LPG, is leading to lung disease among women in Bengaluru.

These are some findings highlighted by a group of researchers from Rajarajeswari Medical College in the city.

Researchers studied 120 women living in urban or semi-urban areas of Bengaluru with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and found that the majority of these cases (80% of those with moderate to severe COPD) can be attributed to exposure to biomass smoke and inadequate ventilation in kitchens with conventional biomass household fuels.

Wood, cow dung, or crop residue are examples of biomass fuels that 88 (73.3%) of the women said they regularly use for cooking, and 42 (43.3%) of them reported inadequate ventilation in their kitchens.

Researchers found that the frequency of moderate to severe lung disease was greater among patients who used biomass fuels, suggesting a clear correlation between indoor air pollution and the severity of COPD. The effect of kitchen ventilation was also found to be an important factor associated with more severe forms of the pulmonary disease. Among women with poor ventilation, 84.6% had moderate to severe COPD.

The current analysis on the impact of biofuel on women's health was conducted over a period of three years (January 2020–December 2022).

Experts say the finding of the study shows an urgent need for targeted public health interventions.

Promotion of clean cooking fuels, including LPG, improvement of household ventilation, and community-level awareness programs are the need of the hour, they said.

Notably, an emission hotspot study conducted in the city by the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) last year also found that the majority of slum houses in Bengaluru, although they have LPG connections as well as cylinders they hardly use them for regular cooking. NIAS highlighted that usage of wood burning followed by charcoal is rampant and that in a family of 5-6 persons, one cylinder lasts for a year as they use it occasionally due to economic constraints.

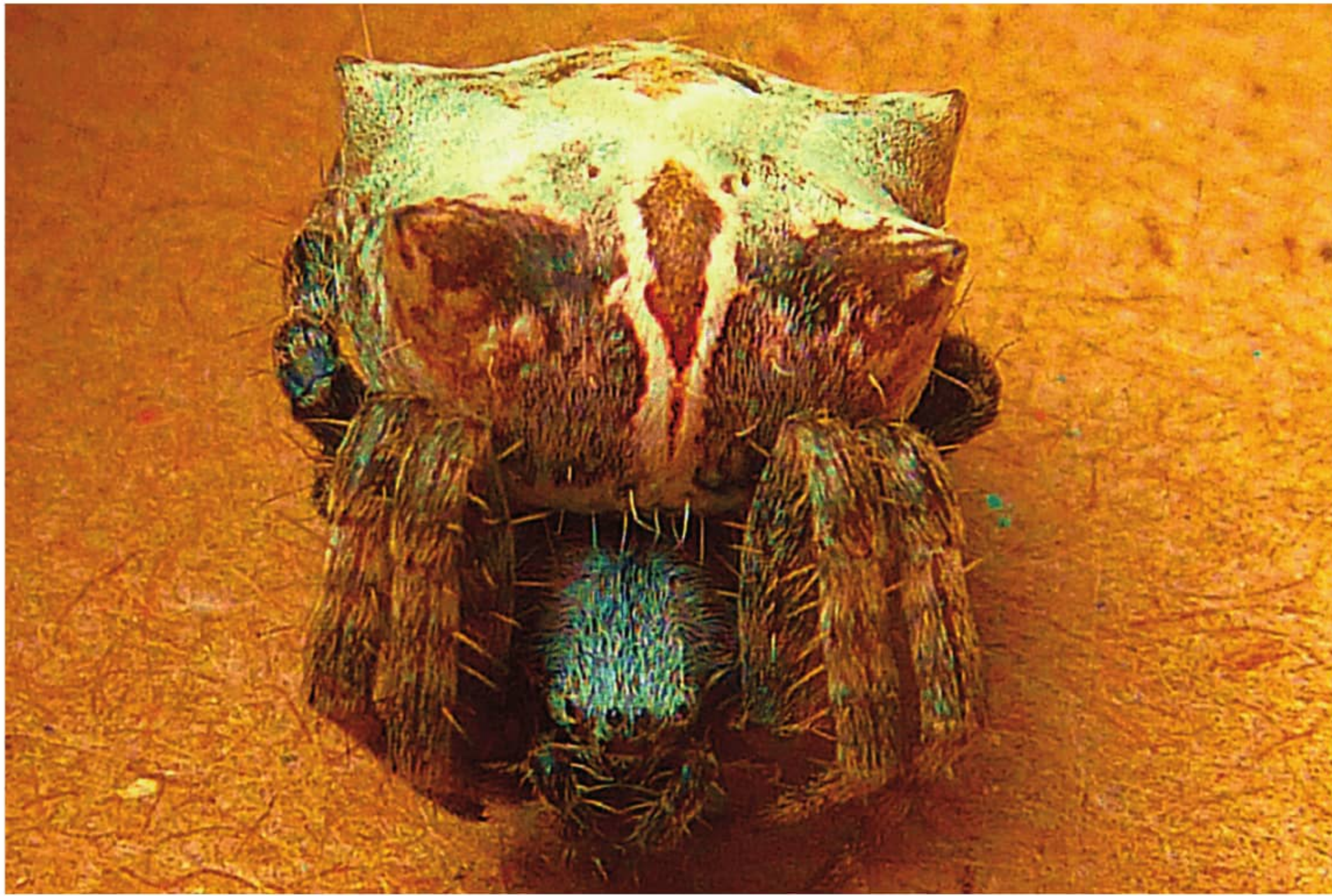


STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO

DECEPTIVELY TINY PREDATOR

Our reader shares an intriguing close-up of a spider mite, folded neatly into a compact form to avoid predators. Though it appears fierce under the macro Leica lens, this tiny creature is barely the size of a gravel granule a reminder that appearances in nature can be wonderfully deceiving.

The picture was clicked by reader
P Suryanarayana



If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com

Litigations stall B'luru's growth, says frustrated DyCM DK Shivakumar

DyCM says endless PILs stall city's progress; insists tunnel network and business corridor are key to easing traffic woes

Dputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar expressed deep frustration over the relentless criticism Bengaluru faces for its traffic problems, stressing that while people including prominent personalities often complain, very few contribute meaningful or actionable solutions. Speaking at the Silver Jubilee Celebration of the Nyayamitra Cooperative Bank-2025 at the City Civil Court, he said the city's development is repeatedly hampered by Public Interest Litigations (PILs) and court injunctions that delay essential projects.

"Everyone criticises, but where are the solutions?" he asked. "People keep tweeting about Bengaluru's traffic, yet no one suggests viable remedies. The population and vehicle numbers have grown exponentially, but the road network hasn't expanded accordingly. Even with better public transport, people continue to prefer private vehicles. How can congestion ease in such a scenario? Cities like Mumbai and Delhi face similar issues, but no one makes such a hue and cry there."

Elaborating on infrastructure efforts, Shivakumar highlighted two major initiatives the 117-km Bengaluru Business Corridor and a network of tunnel roads aimed at long-term

decongestion. He pointed out that if these projects had been launched in 2007, the cost would have been ₹2,000-3,000 crore; today it has ballooned to ₹27,000 crore. Recalling the public protests that scrapped the steel bridge project during KJ George's tenure, he said, "We had planned 120 km of elevated corridors and a 44-km double-decker flyover project worth ₹1.40 lakh crore to transform Bengaluru's infrastructure. Yet, some still accuse us of launching projects only to make money."

He lamented that almost every major initiative faces litigation, adding that routine tasks like garbage collection or advertisement tenders remain stuck for years. "A stay on BDA's layout allotment process alone causes

At Nyayamitra Bank's jubilee, DK Shivakumar hit back at Bengaluru's traffic critics, blaming court cases and protests for stalling key projects. He urged constructive cooperation to push development forward

₹2,000 crore in annual losses," he said. Property prices have risen so high that road-widening has become impractical; compensation can reach ₹40,000 per sq ft, making tunnel roads the only realistic option. "While we've invited tenders for a 45-km stretch, PILs have again been filed," he added.

Calling for constructive public cooperation, he said, "If we make mistakes, correct us but let's act responsibly for development." On administrative reforms, Shivakumar announced that Bengaluru has been divided into five municipal zones, each headed by a commissioner. Their expenditure limit has been raised from ₹1 crore to ₹3 crore, and the mayor's limit from ₹5 crore to ₹10 crore totalling ₹50 crore across zones. "These changes will strengthen local governance and ensure better service delivery," he said. — BMB



As vehicles crawl bumper-to-bumper, the government eyes tunnel roads and business corridors to untie the city's choking commute

DID YOU KNOW?

The Orionids, one of two annual meteor showers created by debris from Halley's comet will dazzle stargazers this week under

near-perfect skies. With the new moon ensuring minimal light interference, observers can expect up to 20 meteors per hour during the peak early Tuesday morning, said Thaddeus LaCoursiere, planetarium program coordinator at Minnesota's Bell Museum. The shower will remain visible until November 7, offering skywatchers multiple chances to catch the spectacle. "Weather permitting, it will be a great show," LaCoursiere said, adding that the Orionids sometimes leave bright, glowing trails known as "trains" as they streak across the night sky. Meteor showers occur when Earth's orbit intersects the dusty paths left behind by comets. As these tiny particles collide with our atmosphere, they burn up in flashes of light—what we call shooting stars. No telescope is needed; just find a dark spot away from city lights, preferably after midnight or before dawn. Next up for stargazers is the Southern Taurids, which peak around November 5 under a full moon making viewing trickier due to increased brightness. — AP



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Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

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Did Trump greenlight \$2,000 checks? Here's what happened to the tariff rebate

Claim: Americans would receive a \$2,000 stimulus payment in October 2025, reportedly approved by the government under Trump's proposal.

Fact: The IRS confirmed no such payment exists; the rumour is false. The proposal was never introduced in Congress and is linked to phishing scams.

If you're expecting a new stimulus check before the end of 2025, you may have to keep waiting, as recent rumours claiming Americans would receive a \$2,000 stimulus payment in October have been debunked by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), as per a report. The agency warned that such false claims often lead to phishing scams designed to steal personal and financial information, as per The Mirror report.

Trump's proposed stimulus check: What really happened

The speculation reportedly stemmed from an earlier idea floated by U.S President Donald Trump. Earlier this year, he suggested that the government could issue a stimulus payment funded by revenue from tariffs, as per the report. At the time, Trump, alongside former DOGE leader Elon Musk, mentioned the possibility of checks worth up to \$5,000, according to Axios. However, the proposal was never formally introduced in Congress, and no official updates have followed, as per The Mirror report.

Trump revisits stimulus talks on one America news

On October 2, during an appearance on One America News, Trump reignited discussion by saying he was considering payments between \$1,000 and \$2,000, stating, "We're going to do something, we're looking at something. Number one, we're paying down debt because people have allowed the debt to go crazy," as quoted in the report. He added, "We'll pay back debt, but we also might make a distribution to the people, almost like a dividend to the people of America," as quoted by The Mirror.

Last official stimulus check issued in 2021

The most recent stimulus checks were issued in 2021 as part of the \$1,400 Recovery Rebate Credit, aimed at providing financial relief during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the deadline to claim that payment was April 15, 2025, as per the report.

IRS Warns Americans About Fake Stimulus Check Scams

The IRS has cautioned taxpayers to stay alert for scams tied to fake stimulus announcements. According to the agency, common scam tactics include, as per The Mirror report:

- Fake social media messages posing as the IRS.
- Use of the misleading term "stimulus check" instead of the official "economic impact payment."
- Requests for personal or banking information.
- Text messages or calls claiming to offer fast refunds or immediate payments.

The IRS emphasised that it never contacts taxpayers through text, social media, or phone calls to demand payments, threaten arrest, or offer refunds, as per The Mirror report.

FAQs

Is a \$2,000 stimulus check really coming in October? No. The IRS confirmed those rumours are false, as per The Mirror report.

What did Trump say about stimulus checks?

He mentioned possibly sending out payments from tariff revenue but did not confirm any plan. — ET Online

Smartphone blast aggravated fire

Batteries of phones worth Rs 46 lakh to be delivered in Bengaluru exploded



The explosion of a consignment of 234 smartphones in the Hyderabad-Bengaluru bus that caught fire in Andhra Pradesh's Kurnool district, killing 19 passengers, may have aggravated the blaze, indicated the preliminary investigation by the Andhra Pradesh Police.

The consignment of smartphones worth Rs 46 lakh belonged to a Hyderabad-based businessman and was to be delivered to a company in Bengaluru.

Survivors told police that when flames engulfed the bus, they heard a series of explosions.

The consignment of smartphones of a particular brand was kept in the luggage cabin under the seats. As the fire started under the belly of the bus, where a bike was stuck, the flames spread to the luggage cabin.

The lithium batteries of the handsets exploded, which, forensic experts believe, further intensified the inferno.

According to P Venkataraman, Director-General of the Andhra Pradesh Fire Services Department, the electrical batteries used for the air con-



A member of the forensic team collecting samples from the spot after a bus caught fire following a collision with a two-wheeler near the Chinnatekur village, in Kurnool on Friday

ditioning system of the bus also exploded, further aggravating the blaze.

He said the heat was so severe that it melted the aluminium sheets on the bus floor. The official said he saw bones and ash dropping from the melted sheets.

Sixteen teams of the Police and Forensic Departments are investigating the fire tragedy from all angles.

Ten teams comprising forensic experts are conducting DNA tests on the charred remains of the passengers.

State Home Minister V Anitha said four teams have also been formed to probe

the nature of the explosions. Two teams are engaged in chemical analysis.

Preliminary investigations also suggest that the fire started under the front section of the bus after it hit a bike, which got stuck under it.

The petrol leakage from the bike, combined with the heat or a spark, may have ignited the fire, which quickly engulfed the entire bus.

The bus driver told police that the bus had hit the bike, which was lying on the road. The driver believes that the bike rider had already met with an accident, and the bus ran over the bike lying

on the road.

The bus belonging to V Kaveri Travels had started from Hyderabad on Thursday night. It met with a ghastly accident near Chinnatekur village on the outskirts of Kurnool between 3 a.m. - 3.15 a.m. on Friday.

While 19 passengers, including two children, were charred to death, 27 passengers managed to come out.

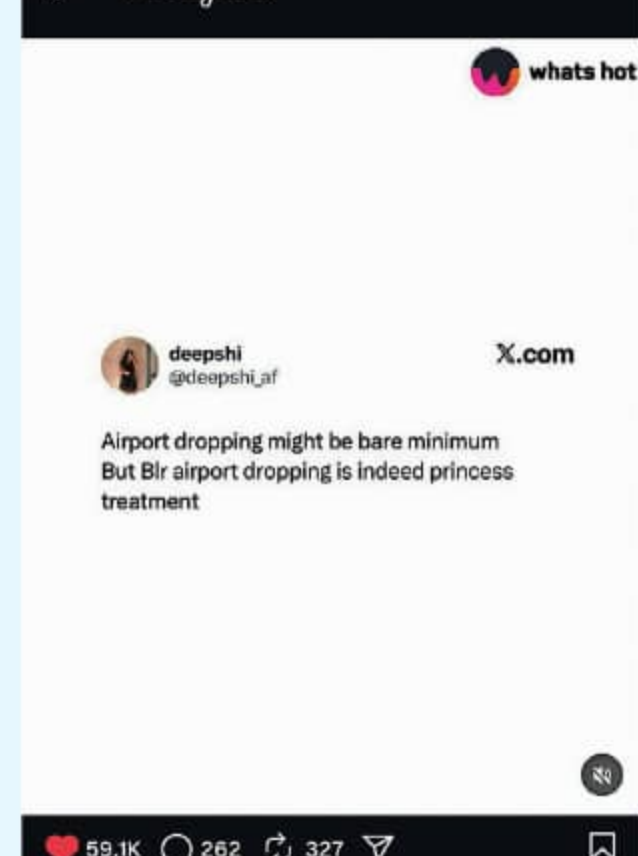
Six of the deceased are from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, two each from Karnataka and Tamil Nadu and one each from Odisha and Bihar. Another deceased is yet to be identified. — IANS

SOCIALTATTLE

That went viral

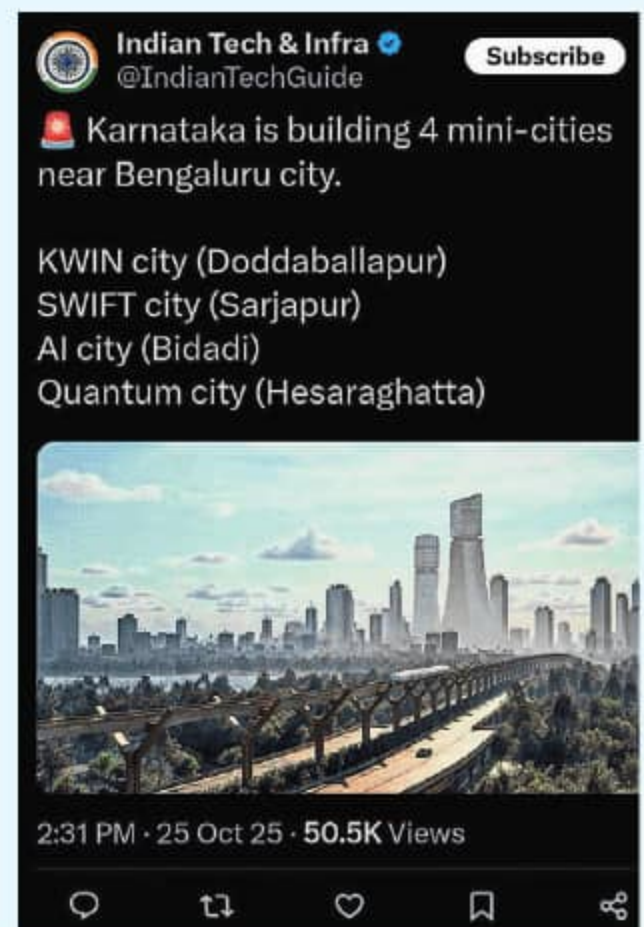
@deepshi_af writes on X that in Bengaluru, driving to the airport to pick someone up is more than just love. The tweet was picked up and posted on Insatagram: If someone drives you all the way to BLR airport in this traffic chaos just know — that's not love, that's princess treatment. https://www.instagram.com/p/DQ1-z_GCR3K/?igsh=M TAwZXfb3hodG0weA==

Instagram



What's tweeting

@YTKDIndia is just ticked off that roads in Bengaluru are in this shape. They write on X: Billions in taxes, zero accountability. <https://x.com/YTKDIndia/status/1982013467864543274?pt=VEeGGk1C27FW2AJbvpKig&s=08>



INBRIEF

Elderly woman killed, 4 hurt in LPG blast

An 81-year-old woman, identified as Akkayamma, died while four others sustained injuries in a suspected LPG cylinder explosion at a house in Triveni Nagar, KR Puram, on Saturday morning. According to police, the blast that occurred around 7.15 am, also partially damaged two neighbouring houses. The explosion took place in a rented house owned by Ramesh and occupied

by Shekhar's family for the past nine months. Shekhar (55) lived there with his two children Kiran Kumar (24), a street food vendor, and Chandana (22) along with his elderly mother, Akkayamma (81). Shekhar's wife had passed away a year ago. According to police, Akkayamma was asleep when the roof slab collapsed on her due to the impact of the explosion. Chandana is reported to be in critical condition. "The blast occurred when a family member switched on the stove," said a senior police officer. **BMB**

Cement truck crushes man

A 57-year-old man died after being run over by a cement mixer truck in Chikkajala on Saturday morning. The victim, identified as Darshan, a resident of Vidyananyapura, was on his way to Hosakote when the accident occurred. According to police, the

incident took place near Sathanur village around 8.45 am. Darshan was riding his scooter when the speeding truck hit him from behind. The driver of the cement mixer fled the scene after abandoning the vehicle. Police suspect negligent driving and speeding led to the accident. **BMB**

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Force sniffs it in the bud

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the Commissioner said. Senior police officials explained that earlier, postal parcels underwent manual checking, which helped detect suspicious confinements. However, with the current backend system packages, they are just reading it and sending it to move directly to their destinations without any manual frisking.

"Earlier, there was a frisking mechanism in place, but it has now been replaced by automated sorting. The machines don't have a system to physically check or identify concealed substances, they simply scan and forward the parcels. As a result, some packages pass through without proper inspection. If we have any specific suspicion, we manually intercept and examine those parcels," an officer said.

Bengaluru City Police have already deployed canine teams at centres that handle large volumes of domestic and international mail. "As humans, we can miss things and even synthetic drugs sometimes slip away. Traffickers use clever concealment methods for example, they put powder under carbon paper at airports so it goes undetected, so we need to intervene manually. Canine teams help because they can detect substances by smell, and officers can also spot suspicious parcels by feeling



During the operation, sniffer dogs Ramu and Prince from the South Dog Squad played a key role, detecting the hidden drugs concealed among a pile of parcels at the post office

the packaging and checking the material," an officer explained.

According to senior police officials, over the past few months, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and city police have tracked several drug consignments originating from foreign countries. These parcels, containing Hydro Ganja, and other counterfeited drugs were shipped through regular courier channels, often under false sender details.

Investigations have found that peddlers use everyday items to book parcels. "We are getting information about drugs a lot hence we are checking everyday," said a senior police official.

Recently, CCB officials intercepted suspicious parcels containing banned drugs at the KG Nagar post office. Using sniffer dogs, they seized 3 kg of Hydro Ganja and other items valued at ₹3.81 crore. Initial investigations revealed that unknown individuals had been sourcing Hydro Ganja from Thailand and Germany via cryptocurrency under the names Khachibbi Jeez and Khidoinoise Jeez for sale in Bengaluru. Two suspects, identified as Nizar (37) and Rasheed (46), both from Kerala, were detained.

Similarly under the same station, an operation was conducted on October 6, when the same team intercepted another parcel at the foreign post office and seized 4 kg of Hydro Ganja valued at ₹4 crore.

A case has been registered at KG Nagar Police Station, and the CCB Anti-Narcotics Wing has taken over the investigation. The accused in this case are yet to be identified. During the operation, sniffer dogs Ramu and Prince from the South Dog Squad played a key role, detecting the hidden drugs concealed among a pile of parcels at the post office. According to police officials, the smugglers had cleverly disguised the banned substances as pet food, labelling them as turtle food to avoid suspicion.

Juveniles take to heinous crime

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

locality, have been detained so far, while efforts are underway to trace the two others who remain absconding.

In another recent case, a minor girl delivered a stillborn baby after being repeatedly raped by her neighbour, who is also a juvenile. Police said the boy had been assaulting her for several months, underscoring how deeply entrenched the problem has become.

In yet another disturbing case, a gang of six, including three juveniles aged 16-17 years, was arrested for vandalising over 40 vehicles and carrying out robberies across West Bengaluru. The gang, known for moving around in hoodies during late-night hours, was finally apprehended near Sondekoppa and the juveniles were produced before the Juvenile Justice Board.

According to police, the minors were school dropouts, operating in areas such as Andrahalli, Byadarahalli, and Karekallu, and had also attacked goods vehicle drivers in

Madanayakanahalli and Doddaballapur Rural police limits.

No deterrence

A senior officer said that juveniles involved in violent and organised crimes are becoming increasingly difficult to handle, as strict punishment cannot be imposed under the Juvenile Justice Act. Even when these offenders are repeat criminals or display extreme brutality, the law treats them as minors.

"Juveniles committing crimes are aware that the police will only detain them and send them to a remand home, rather than treat them like adult offenders. Minors with multiple cases become even more violent, having learned how the system works, and this sense of impunity often leads them to escalate to heinous crimes, including attempted murder and murder in future," explained the officer.

Police also link the spike in juvenile crime to substance abuse, particularly the consumption of Tydol tablets and other easily available synthetic drugs, which make the youngsters aggressive and prone to violent behaviour.

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I, Prem Rathor, S/o Girish Rathod @ Girishbhai Popat bhai Rathor, residing at No. 3/1, Old No. 44, Sri Lakshmi devi Nilaya, 52nd Cross, 7th Main, S R Dinne, Bangalore North, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560010. have changed my name to Prem Girishbhai Rathod, vide affidavit dt: 24-10-2025 before notary Renuka C, B.lore.

I, Pooja Chopra w/o Vikas : Jhabak R/o 24 Sindhi Colony, Jc road 2nd cross behind VISL building : Bangalore-560002 have changed my name to Pooja : Jhabak, I shall be called by : this name for all purposes.

I, Suvransu Bala Swain R/o G4, President Leon Apartment, Duo Marvel Layout, Ananthapura Cross, Dodabellapur Road, Yelahanka Blr-64 changed my name from Suvransu Bala Nayak to Suvransu Bala Swain for all further purposes.

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Myanmar's crackdown on cybercriminals has put India on alert mode

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: CYBER SCAM HUBS

Amid the massive crackdown on cybercriminals in Myanmar, India also needs to remain vigilant about numerous cyber scam centres in China-Myanmar border areas that target its citizens, according to a report.

The scam hubs in Kayin State, the Wa region, and the China-Myanmar border areas, where the central government's reach is limited, lure victims with fake online job postings, confiscate passports, and force them to conduct fraudulent cryptocurrency and romance scams targeting victims worldwide, according to the report in India Narrative

"New Delhi, Beijing, and Bangkok have all demanded that Naypyidaw take action after hundreds of their citizens were trafficked into scam operations," the report mentioned.

According to reports, a statement by Myanmar's military information ministry said its forces had "cleared" KK Park, synonymous with online fraud, money laundering and human trafficking for the past five years.

More than 2,000 people were detained, and around 30 Starlink satellite terminals used to maintain communications networks for scam operations were seized.

For India, these cyber hubs have become a mounting concern. In March this year, the Ministry of External Affairs confirmed that almost 300 nationals had been rescued from cyber-scam compounds in Southeast Asia, including in Myanmar. According to reports, up to 540 individuals were repatriated in a subsequent phase via Thailand.

Notably, a hybrid form of governance, blending armed-group control, corruption, and foreign criminal investment, has turned Kayin State into a cybercrime



Mobile phones belonging to people from various countries, who were working in the KK Park compound in Myanmar and crossed to Thailand via the Moei river, are temporarily seized by Thai officials, on Friday

SC to hear suo motu matter relating to victims of digital arrest

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear a suo motu matter on victims of digital arrest who are defrauded by using forged documents on October 27.

According to the apex court's cause list, the suo motu petition titled "In Re: victims of digital arrest related to forged documents" will come up for hearing before a bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi on Monday.

While hearing the matter on October 17, the top court observed that, prima facie, a stern action on a pan-India basis with coordinated efforts between the Central and state police was required to unearth the full extent of the criminal enterprise involving forgery of judicial documents, cyber extortion and cyber arrest of innocent people, especially senior citizens.

It sought responses from

the Centre, the CBI and others in the matter, saying such offences strike at the "very foundation" of public trust in the judicial system.

The top court had taken cognisance of a case of digital arrest of a senior citizen couple in Haryana's Ambala on the basis of forged orders of the court and probe agencies by fraudsters to extort Rs 1.05 crore. "We are, however, aghast at the fact that the fraudsters fabricated judicial orders in the name of the Supreme Court of India and various other documents," the bench had said.

PTI

haven.

"For the Myanmar junta, the KK Park raid signals to neighbouring countries that it can enforce border security and control hybrid criminal-militia activities," the report noted.

However, the challenges remain as the networks behind these compounds are deeply embedded in cross-border trafficking and crypto-fraud.

According to media reports, more than 5,400 Chinese suspects

involved in telecom fraud in Myawaddy, Myanmar, have been repatriated in a joint crackdown on cross-border telecom fraud launched by China, Myanmar, and Thailand since the beginning of 2025.

Ferrari aims at AI generation with crypto auction for Le Mans car

Ferrari is tapping into crypto markets and tech-rich youngsters with a planned new digital token that its wealthiest fans will be able to use in an auction for a Ferrari 499P, the endurance car that won three straight Le Mans titles.

The plan for now is limited in scope and is an effort by the Italian sports car maker to tap into a trend among luxury brands seeking access to the growing wealth of younger tech entrepreneurs, as AI

and data centres drive investment and markets around the world.

It comes after Ferrari, which is also developing its first electric car, began accepting Bitcoin, ethereum and USDC for car purchases in the United States in 2023 and extended the service to Europe last year.

Ferrari is working with Italian fintech Conio to launch the 'Token Ferrari 499P' for members of its Hyperclub — which groups 100 of its most exclusive clients, with a

passion for endurance races - to trade amongst themselves and bid on the racing model.

It is set to debut with the start of the 2027 World Endurance Championship season.

"This is about strengthening the sense of belonging among our most loyal customers," Chief Marketing and Commercial Officer Enrico Galliera told Reuters.

With prominent backers including U.S. President Donald Trump, crypto prices have surged, but

regulators warn loose oversight and speculative trading creates risks for investors and financial stability. Bitcoin is up 60% in the last year.

The token will still take time to become a reality. Conio is applying for a licence under the European Union's new crypto regulation, but sees room for growth.

"The potential for development is enormous," said Conio's Chief Fintech Strategist and project architect Davide Rallo. **Reuters**

BITS & BYTES

FOLDABLE IPHONE SOON?

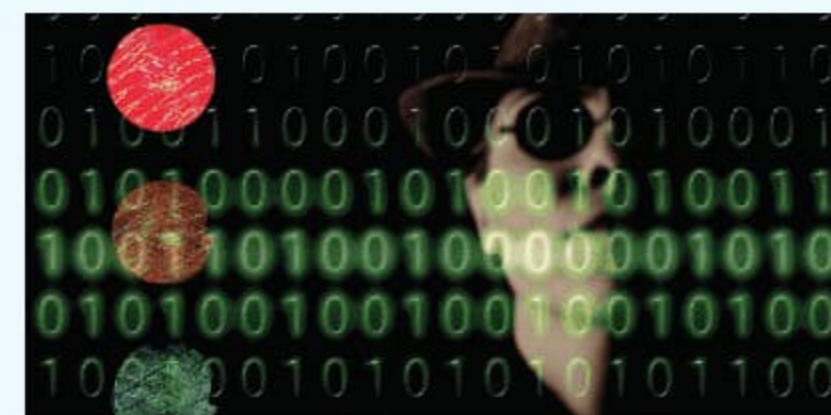


Apple's foldable, expected around late 2026, could redefine consumer expectations, according to a new report. The biggest structural shift is expected in late 2026, when Apple's first foldable iPhone is expected to debut.

According to the Counterpoint Research report, Apple's entry would instantly expand consumer awareness and accelerate replacement demand across high-income segments.

Given Apple's ecosystem influence, its launch year could dramatically reshape brand dynamics, lifting total market volumes. **FIANS**

UN CYBERCRIME TREATY



A landmark U.N. cybercrime treaty, aimed at tackling offences that cost the global economy trillions of dollars annually, is set to be signed in Vietnam's capital Hanoi by around 60 countries over the weekend. The convention, which will take effect after it is ratified by 40 nations, is expected to streamline international cooperation against cybercrime, but has been criticised by activists and tech companies over concerns of possible human rights abuses.

"Cyberspace has become fertile ground for criminals...every day, sophisticated scams defraud families, steal livelihoods, and drain billions of dollars from our economies," U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said at the ceremony. **Reuters**

META-RIL TIE UP



Meta Platforms, Inc's Facebook Overseas will hold 30 per cent interest in the AI venture floated by billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries, according to a regulatory filing.

Reliance will hold 70 per cent in Reliance Enterprise Intelligence Ltd, the company said in the filing.

Reliance Intelligence, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Reliance Industries Ltd, and Facebook will jointly invest an initial Rs 855 crore in the venture. In the filing, the company said Reliance Intelligence Ltd on October 24, 2025 incorporated Reliance Enterprise Intelligence Ltd. REIL will develop, market and distribute enterprise AI services. **PTI**



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Eye scans

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Canadian researchers have found that scanning the tiny blood vessels in the eyes may help predict a person's risk of developing heart disease and how fast they're biologically ageing.

Window to body's health

The study, published in the journal Science Advances, suggests that retinal scans could one day serve as a noninvasive window into the body's overall vascular health and biological ageing status, offering new opportunities for early detection and intervention.

What all it can reveal

"By connecting retinal scans, genetics, and blood biomarkers, we have uncovered molecular pathways that help explain how aging affects the vascular system," said Marie Pigeyre, Associate Professor at McMaster University's Department of Medicine in Canada.

Read the changes

"The eye provides a unique, noninvasive view into the body's circulatory system. Changes in the retinal blood vessels often mirror changes occurring throughout the body's small vessels," added Pigeyre. People with simpler, less branched blood vessels were found to be at increased risk of cardiovascular diseases and showed signs of biological ageing, such as higher inflammation and shorter lifespan.

Identifying proteins

The team also reviewed blood biomarkers and genetic data and identified potential biological causes behind changes in the eye's blood vessels. This helped them identify specific proteins that may drive ageing and disease -- MMP12 and IgG-Fc receptor 1b. Both proteins are linked to inflammation and vascular ageing. According to Pigeyre, these proteins could be potential targets for future drugs.

— IANS

SEED YOU NEED

3 recipes with makhana (fox nuts or lotus seeds) you must try

SPICED MAKHANA CHIVDA

This crunchy snack maintains energy levels and satiety.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups makhana
- 2 tsp coconut oil
- 10 to 12 curry leaves
- 1 green chilli, slit
- 2 tbsp dried coconut flakes
- 1 tbsp pumpkin seeds
- Sendha namak (black salt) to taste
- ¼ tsp black pepper



METHOD

- Dry roast the makhana to golden brown crispiness.
- Heat the coconut oil and add the curry leaves and green chilli for a brief period. Take off the flame.
- Mix in the coconut flakes, pumpkin seeds and roasted makhana. Add the sendha namak and black pepper, and toss well.
- Store in an airtight container.

KESAR MAKHANA KHEER



This dessert with makhanas and almond milk has a light and creamy texture.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup makhana (fox nuts)
- 3 cups almond milk
- 6 to 8 saffron strands
- ½ tsp cardamom powder
- 3 tbsp date paste (or jaggery powder)

- 2 tbsp chopped almonds and pistachios

METHOD

- Dry roast the makhana in a pan until it becomes crispy. Grind half the makhana into coarse pieces while keeping the other half intact.
- Heat the almond milk, adding the saffron strands and cardamom powder, until it

- reaches a soft boiling point.
- Simmer the mixture for 10 to 12 minutes to achieve a thick creamy consistency. Add the crushed makhana and date paste.
- Garnish the kheer with the remaining makhana pieces and chopped almonds and pistachios.
- Serve the kheer warm or chilled.

VEGETABLE MAKHANA TIKKI

These tikkis are crispy on the outside and soft inside.

INGREDIENTS

- 1½ cups makhana, roasted and ground to a coarse flour
- 2 medium potatoes, boiled and mashed
- ¼ cup grated carrot
- ¼ cup grated bottle gourd (lauki), squeezed to remove the excess water
- 2 tbsp chopped spinach
- 2 tbsp roasted and crushed peanuts
- 1 green chilli, finely chopped
- 2 tbsp chopped coriander leaves
- Sendha namak (black salt) to taste

- 2 tbsp coconut oil for shallow frying

METHOD

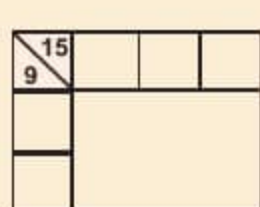
- Mix together the makhana flour, mashed potatoes, grated carrot and bottle gourd, chopped spinach, crushed peanuts, chopped green chilli, chopped coriander leaves, and sendha namak.
- Shape the mixture into small tikkis.
- Heat the oil in a pan and shallow fry until golden on both sides.
- Serve hot with coconut or mint chutney.



$$\sqrt[3]{27} + 5 - \sqrt{625 + 6} = ?$$

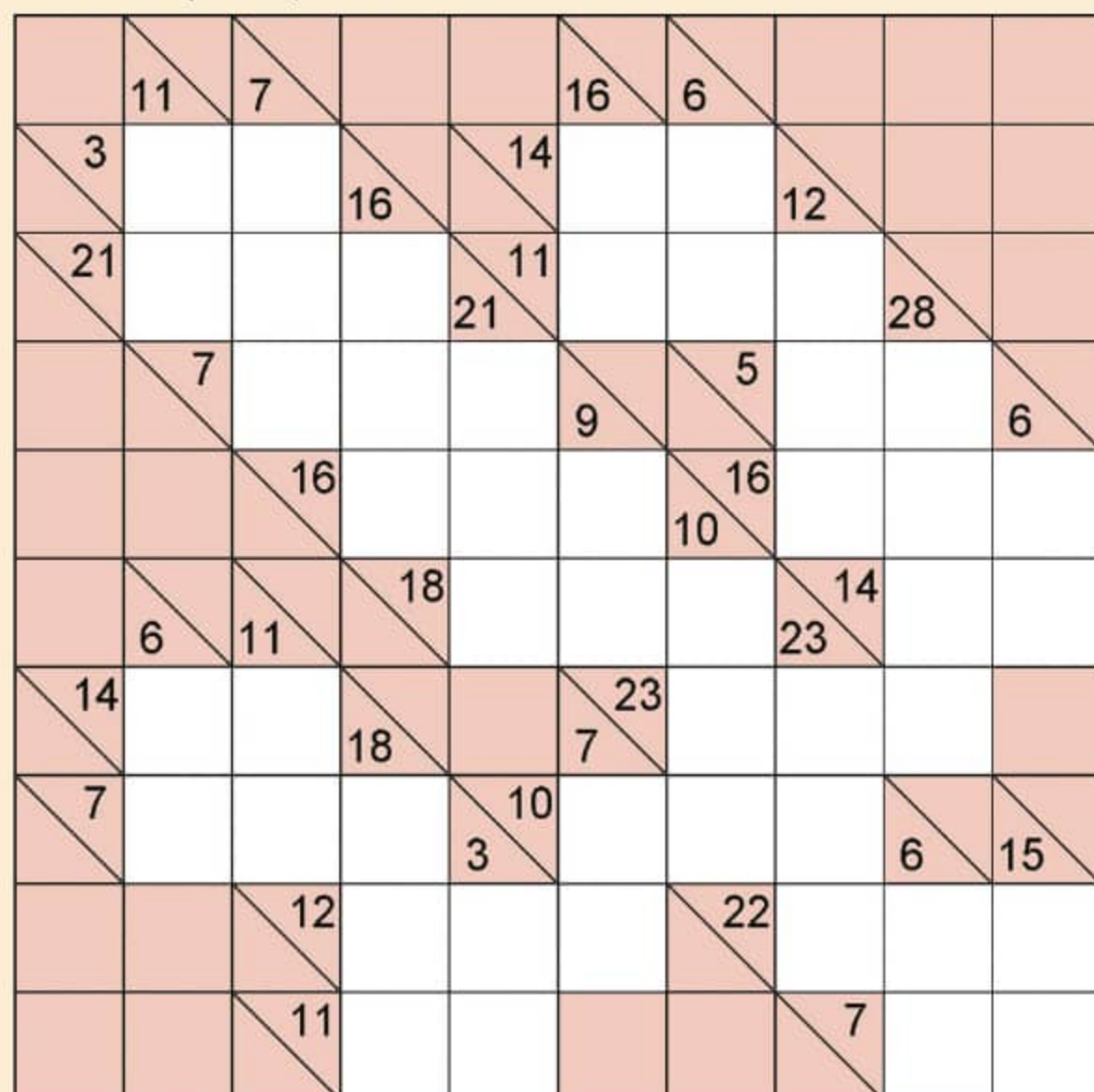
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

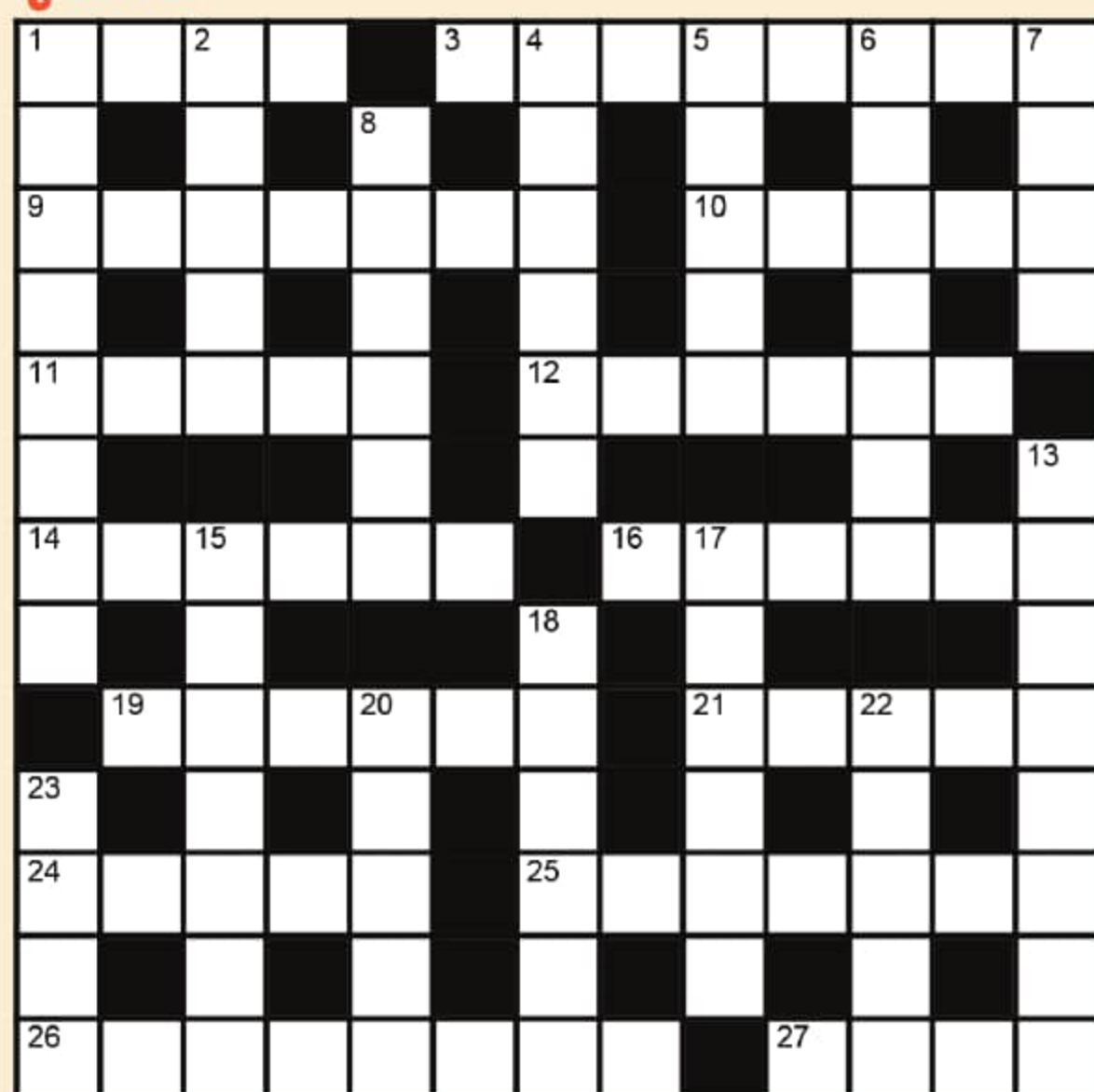


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

- 1 Mediocre (2,2)
- 3 Where in Karnataka Shiravati River drops 253 meters (3,5)
- 9 Opponent of technology (7)
- 10 Top people (5)
- 11 Stratum (5)
- 12 Loosened the laces, perhaps? (6)
- 14 Divisions of England (6)
- 16 F Scott Fitzgerald wrote "The Great ____" (6)
- 19 Popular tourist destination in Himachal Pradesh (6)
- 21 Dickens' title starter (1,4)
- 24 Large; talented (5)
- 25 Expressive body movement (7)
- 26 Entourages or corteges (8)
- 27 Greek letters—"seat" changed? (4)

DOWN

- 1 Altruistic (8)
- 2 Alas (5)
- 4 Just a single on the cricket field (3,3)
- 5 Navy (5)
- 6 Lingers on way (7)
- 7 Discerns or observes (4)
- 8 Ferocious (6)
- 13 European mountains (8)
- 15 Where to find a birdling? (2,1,4)
- 17 Tennis star Andre ____ (6)
- 18 Tinkling sound (6)
- 20 ____ his advice: do as he counsels? (3,2)
- 22 Grown-up (5)
- 23 Laboratory gel (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Q EQUALS Y
GR QAN IOW I XWOOAO XA
CIDQ, XLWD SWKIOU AR CIDQ.



Linemaro

You are like my new phone. I can't quit staring at you in public



Mindchow

Think of your own faults the first part of the night when you are awake, and of the faults of others the latter part of the night when you are asleep



Joke of the day

Whenever I meet a pretty girl, the first thing I look for is intelligence; because if she doesn't have that, then she's mine

Loop

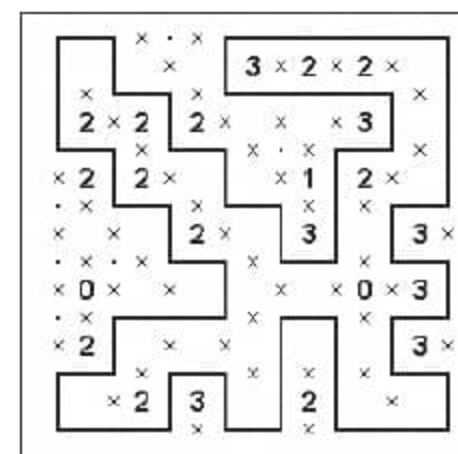
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

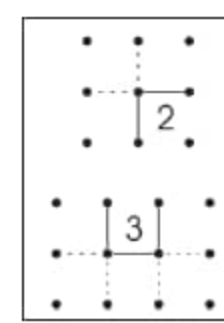
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) - Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

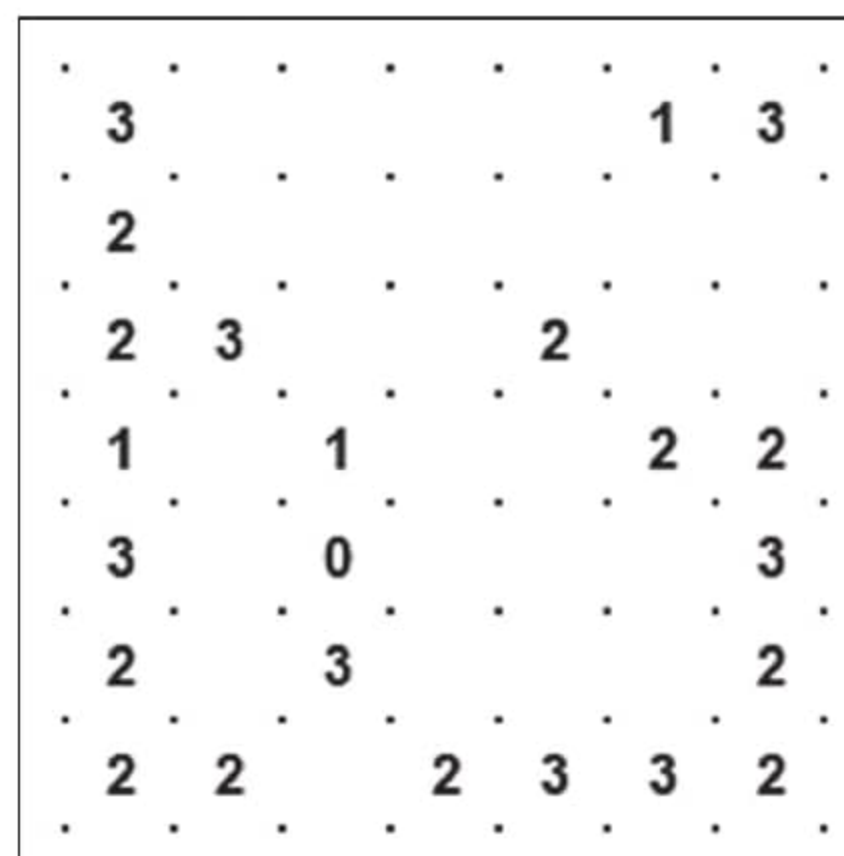
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



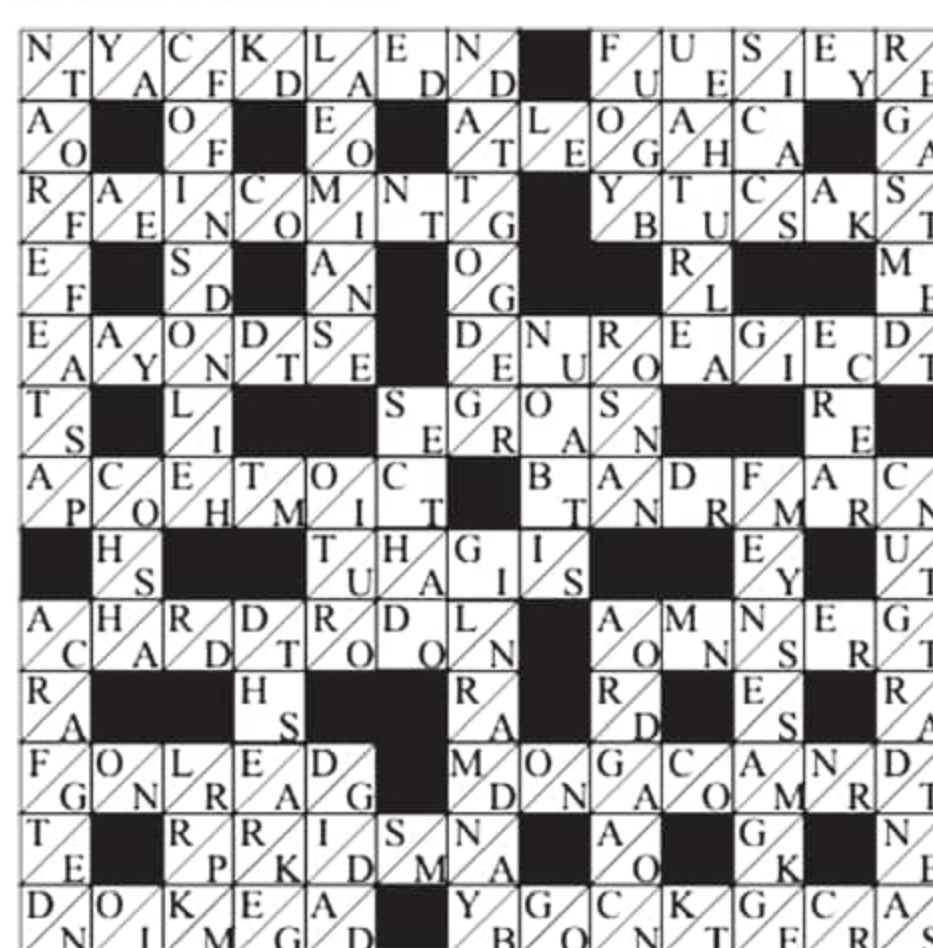
(Fig A)



(Fig B)
Not Allowed



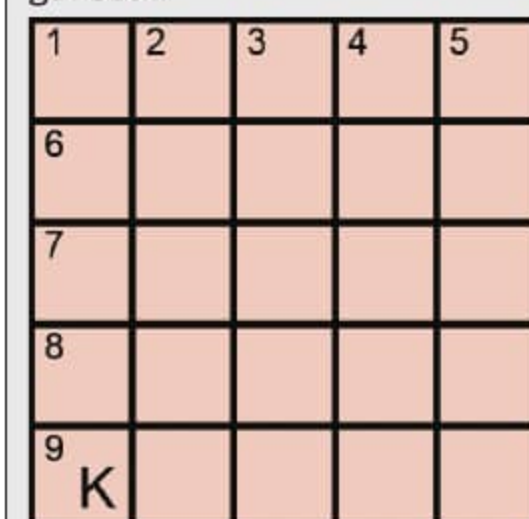
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

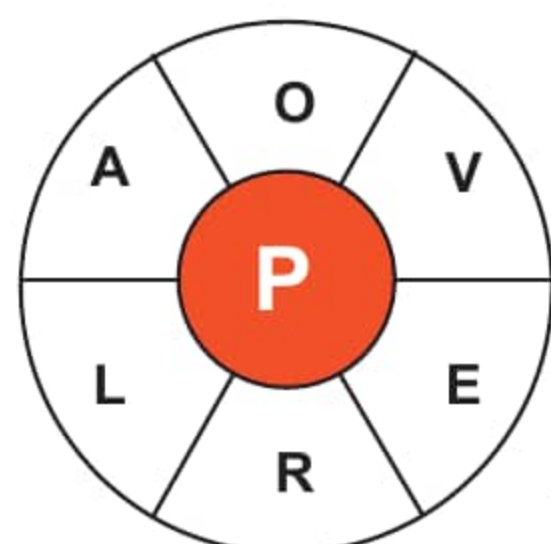
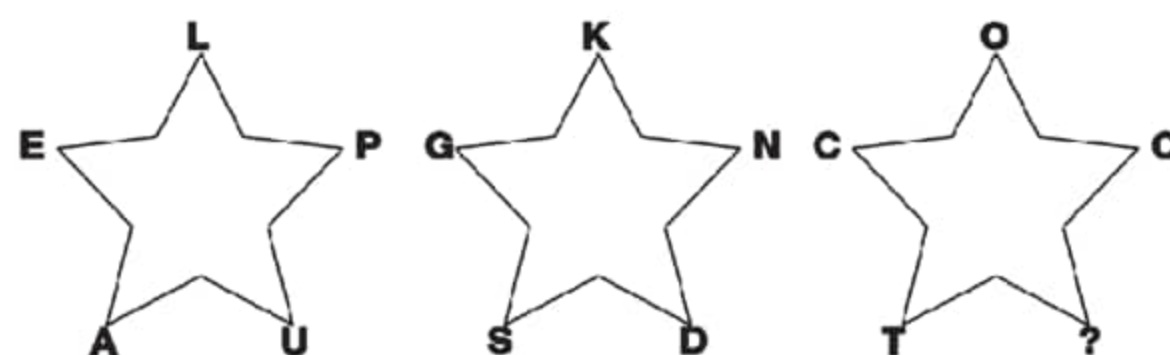
- 1 PP, say; 6 Air at;
- 7 I icon; 8 Lick C;
- 9 K sick

DOWN

- 1 Ticks; 2 A oil I;
- 3 In Cap; 4 R pick;
- 5 Sacky

Mensapuzzle

What is missing from the last star?



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

17 Average; 19 Good; 21 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge



To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Easy

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

3 3 3 5 = 14

Medium

2 4 5 9 = 27

Hard

2 4 5 3 = 2

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Briefcase is larger. 2. Bush is smaller. 3. Tie is different. 4. Nose is smaller. 5. Tree trunk is thinner. 6. Label is different.

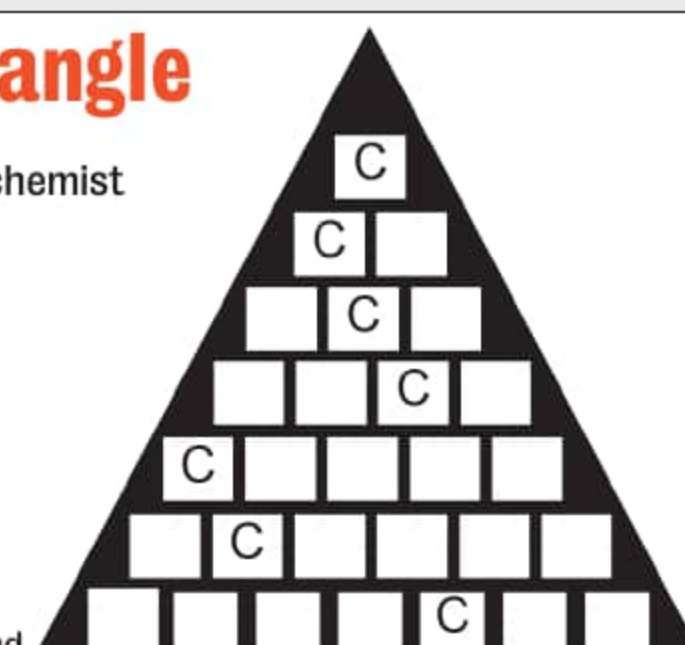
Riddler

What is the next number in this series?
1, 2, 6, 42, 1806, ____

Alpha triangle

- 1 Vitamin type
- 2 Calcium for the chemist
- 3 Expert
- 4 Shoe string
- 5 Absolve
- 6 Cream puff
- 7 Thing

Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.



COMICS

The BETTER HALF

by GLASBERGEN

Featuring HARRIET STANLEY PARKER

"Our regular program will not be shown tonight because you're just going to fall asleep anyway!"



"I found a way to wake up without caffeine. Brush your teeth then eat a grapefruit!"



"I'm still looking for a philosophy to live by, but I just haven't found the right bumper sticker."



"The diet special is a burger made by a cook with a drippy nose and some fries that fell on the floor."



"If I eat a few bowls of ice cream before dinner, it helps me stick to my diet!"

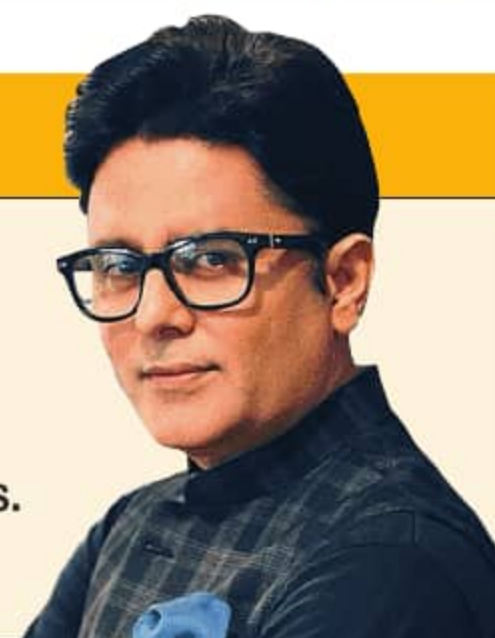
BABY BLUES

BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT



WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR



If it's your birthday today

This year highlights optimism, adventure, and new experiences. Career opportunities expand through openness to change. Finances strengthen when risks are balanced wisely. Relationships thrive through honesty and enthusiasm. Creative projects spark joy. Health benefits from active choices. Travel or fresh perspectives broaden your outlook. By year's end, you'll feel grateful for growth that shaped confidence, clarity, and lasting fulfilment.

Aries Mar 21 - Apr 20



Reconnect with loved ones today. They might feel distant, even unintentionally. Show care through presence and warmth. Dedicate meaningful time, reminding friends and family they matter deeply in your life.

Leo Jul 24 - Aug 23



Unexpected positivity arrives today, lifting heavy thoughts and brightening your outlook. Negative patterns shift toward joy and confidence. Welcome this fresh energy eagerly, embracing enthusiasm and renewed optimism throughout your journey.

Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 22



Responsibilities may feel heavy, yet balance awaits. Take a break with friends, stepping outside your routine. Even unfamiliar experiences refresh your spirit. Fun, laughter, and lighthearted moments bring strength and renewed energy.

Taurus Apr 21 - May 20



Optimism surrounds you today. Even challenges hold hidden opportunities. Your positive attitude inspires and uplifts others, spreading joy. Share your enthusiasm openly, brightening the atmosphere and motivating everyone fortunate enough around you.

Virgo Aug 24 - Sep 23



Family connections shine brightly today. Gather with loved ones, enjoying harmony and support. Relationships strengthen naturally, bringing comfort and joy. Loved ones remind you of your priorities, creating warmth and balance.

Capricorn Dec 23 - Jan 20



Emotions may fluctuate today, creating irritation. Avoid projecting frustrations onto others. Instead, prioritise self-care and solitude. Relax with simple comforts like rest, favourite shows, or quiet reflection, regaining balance and peace.

Gemini May 21 - Jun 21



Today encourages introspection and self-discovery. Step back from busy routines and embrace solitude. Relaxed reflection allows a deeper understanding of your character, values, and desires. Discover clarity about yourself through quiet moments.

Libra Sep 24 - Oct 22



An idealistic mood surrounds you today. Empowering energies increase confidence, happiness, and strength. While enjoying positivity, remember that added power requires balance and responsibility. Use your influence wisely.

Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19



Expect a joyful, vibrant day filled with laughter, social opportunities, and fun. Stepping outside your comfort zone reveals new experiences. Embrace exploration wholeheartedly, welcoming friendships and delightful adventures with enthusiasm.

Cancer Jun 22 - July 23



Contentment fills your heart today. Life changes around you align beautifully in your favour. Embrace positivity, celebrate blessings, and enjoy a peaceful sense of gratitude flowing throughout this harmonious day.

Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 22



Stress eases today, bringing peace and relief. A calm mind allows happiness to flourish within. Positivity radiates outwards, uplifting people around you. Enjoy comfort in your bubble of serenity and joy.

Pisces Feb 20 - Mar 20



Patience guides you today. Spontaneity may invite mistakes, so plan carefully and move thoughtfully. Strategic steps bring success, ensuring smooth progress. Thoughtful choices secure confidence, stability, and positive outcomes.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE



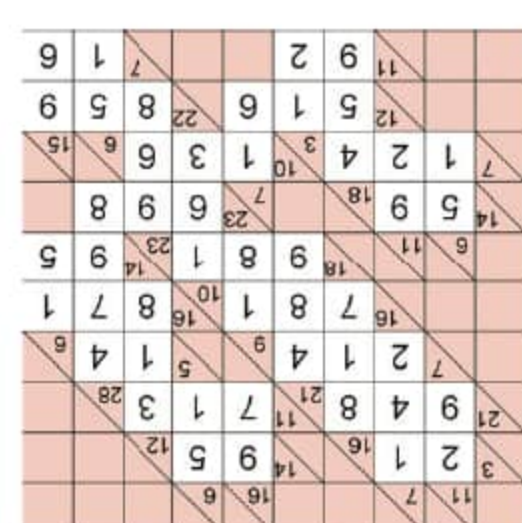
Dakshita, Bengaluru



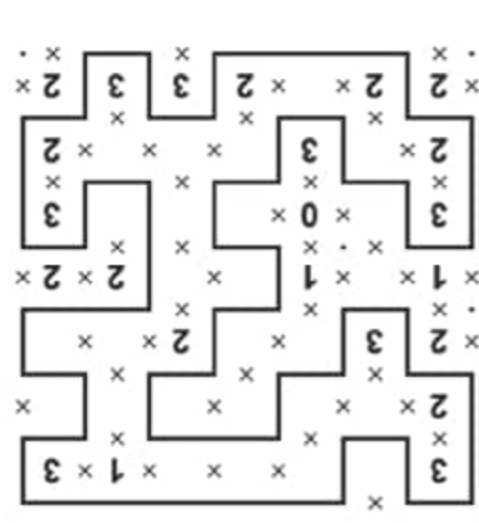
Ramya, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS



KAKURO



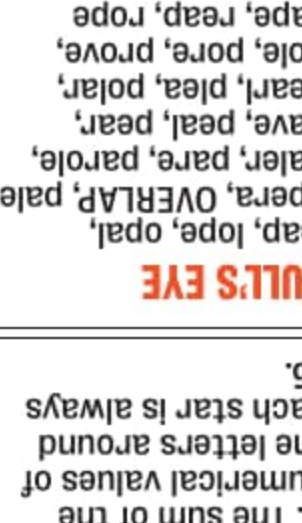
LOOP



ALPHA TRIANGLE



SUDOKU



MENSA PUZZLE



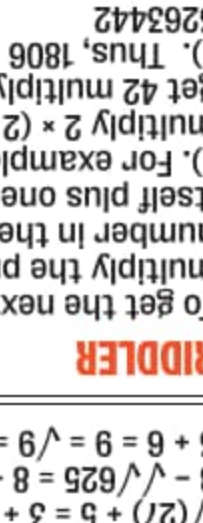
QUICK



STRIKE OUT



QUOTE UNQUOTE



SOLVE IN 1M

SUBTLE STARSHINE

Despite being born into world of cinema, Konkona has managed to keep on the periphery

Konkona Sensharma is the daughter of renowned filmmaker and actress Aparna Sen, yet she has never quite felt like a Bollywood insider. With over 50 films to her credit, many of which are offbeat or non-commercial, Konkona has carved her own unique path in the industry.

When asked about the Bombay film world compared to Delhi, in an interview with Mid-day, the 'Page 3' actress said, "I was actually very removed from the film industry world, I think. I've actually not really ever felt like an insider in anything. That's almost been a part of my identity that I'm a little bit on the periphery of things and a bit of an outsider. I really enjoy that perspective. I don't really see myself as a mainstream star."

Even with her famous background, Konkona has consistently carved her own path and never chased typical stardom.

Among her films, the one many people remember is the Ranbir Kapoor starrer 'Wake Up Sid'. Speaking about it, the 'Omkara' actress said, "I have done around 55 to 60 films. A few of them are what would be considered more mainstream, and many of them are not. Even when I have done mainstream films, it's usually the not-so mainstream film of that particular studio, like 'Wake Up Sid'. I think it's perhaps one of Dharma's less mainstream films."

The 'Life in a... Metro' actress also spoke about Ranbir Kapoor, who was new to films at the time. She said, "Ranbir was just starting off then. He was so new and young."

—ETimes



Precious festive wear

The Diwali 2025 celebrations saw Bollywood's Gen Z brigade step out in their finest traditional wear. But it was Shah Rukh Khan and Gauri's daughter, Suhana Khan who sparkled with her festive look.

While the star kid loves her bodycon dresses, Suhana elevated her festive fashion by opting for a breathtaking, from a leading high end homegrown brand. The exquisite ensemble comes attached with an astounding price tag that has since gone viral. We break down the details of Suhana Khan's opulent attire right here.

Suhana Khan chose an intricate lehenga set from a homegrown brand named Torani. The ensemble featured a lehenga worth Rs. 110,500, corset worth Rs. 39,500 and an odhni worth Rs. 28,500. The silk and organza outfit featured intricate embroidery and digital print. She was styled by fashion stylist Ami Patel. A soft glam with delicately lined eyes was accompanied by wavy hair. A mang teeka, statement earrings and kadas completed her festive mood.

The post quickly garnered likes from Shah Rukh Khan, Janhvi Kapoor and Tan France. Ananya Panday said, "Best" and Navya Naveli Nanda said, "Yay".

—ETimes

'Wicked' helped Ariana fall in love with music again

Ariana Grande recently shared how working on 'Wicked' helped her reconnect with her passion for music.

According to PEOPLE, the singer, in an interview on the Shut Up Evan podcast with Evan Ross Katz said filming the musical gave her a "genuine spark" that reminded her of why she loves creating songs. "I felt like a

genuine spark, like a reconnection and inspiration and something I mean, maybe I missed it," she said. "Maybe it's as simple as I missed it," she continued. "But I do feel like you have to miss things in order to learn how to become better, you know what I mean? And I think I learned so much. And then also I genuinely wanted to do it. I



just felt like I couldn't not. It was an inspired moment and I had to write an album and I had to do it." Grande shared that though the Wicked team warned her about a busy, she didn't let it stop her from working on her new album.

—ANI

Tale of obsessive love



DILMAAR

3.0
RATING



- **DIRECTOR** M Chandramouli
- **ACTORS** Ram Gowda, Aditi Prabhudeva, Dimple Hayati, Saikumar, Sharath Lohitashwa
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 144 minutes

Writer M Chandramouli, known for punchy dialogues in the movie KGF, debuts as a director in Sandalwood with Dilmaar. So it is no surprise that Dilmaar is laden with punchy and meaningful dialogues. Chandramouli has made sure audiences are entertained.

The movie begins with Bhargav (Saikumar), an underworld don, deciding to avenge his brother's death. He directs his followers to look out for the person responsible for his brother's death. At this juncture, the scene shifts to a village where Shukla (Ram Gowda) is attacked by Gowda's (Sharath Lohitashwa) supporters for insisting to meet Gowda's daughter Akshata (Aditi Prabhudeva). Akshata tries her best to convince Shukla to leave her alone as she is already in love with Vikas. Meanwhile, the director reveals why Shukla has come to the village from Mangaluru. The director introduces Maya (Dimple Hayati), a prospective artiste struggling to get opportunities to

act in the movies. Shukla, an introvert, meets Maya when she is in danger. You have to watch the movie to know what happens to Maya.

The movie would have been a good entertainer had the director excluded a few scenes of violence to reduce the movie's runtime by 10 to 20 minutes. There are many scenes of violence but police has not made appearance in any such scenes except in a brothel scene.

Ram Gowda has succeeded to play the lead that has many shades. Aditi Prabhudeva and Dimple Hayati provide good support. Saikumar, as usual, is seen yelling at others. He plays a vicious villain.

It is worth a watch if you like punchlines and a lot of action.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

Satish Shah: June 25, 1951 - October 25, 2025

Veteran actor Satish Shah dies at 74



huge loss for our industry. He was a jovial person," close friend and industry colleague Ashoke Pandit told PTI.

In a statement, P D Hinduja Hospital & Medical Research Centre said it received an emergency call regarding Shah's health earlier in the day.

"An ambulance with a medical team was immediately sent to his residence, where he was found to be unresponsive. CPR was started in the ambulance itself and continued on arrival at the hospital. Despite the best efforts of our medical team, Mr Shah could not be revived," the hospital said in a statement.

A close friend and collaborator added that Shah had undergone a kidney transplant three months ago.

Born on June 25, 1951, Shah was a prominent figure in Indian cinema and television.

—PTI

Bollywood actor Satish Shah, whose very presence in films such as "Jaane Bhi Do Yaaron" and "Main Hoon Na" and sitcom "Sarabhai vs Sarabhai" elicited smiles and many a laugh, died on Saturday. He was 74.

The ever amiable Shah passed away at his residence in Bandra East in the afternoon, Ramesh Kadatala, his personal assistant for over 30 years, told PTI.

"He died due to kidney failure. His health suddenly deteriorated at his home and he was taken to Hinduja hospital, where he passed away... It is a